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# RECREATION

Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

37°

— October, 1932 —

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## Memories That Will Live

By Augustus D. Zanzig

## With the Recreation Executives

## A Center That Knows No Depression

By Ben Evans

## The Opportunity of the Church for Service in the Field of Recreation

By Reverend Philip C. Jones

## Forest Fires and the Recreationist

By Marie F. Heisley

## Hallowe'en on the Playground

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## Recreation and the Way to World Peace

**W**HAT do men and women and children of the various countries of the world do when they do what they want to do — when they have freedom to do as they please? What do the countries of the world do to help their citizens in doing what they want to do? These were questions which the First International Recreation Congress faced.

Recreation is nature's greatest means of education—yes—but it is "education by consent." Recreation is the citizen educating himself in ways he has himself chosen. Not one act of consent at the beginning, but continuous consent. The citizen "self-determines" his own recreation and changes his mind as he likes. And so in hearing of recreation in different countries we were hearing really about the inmost nature of the peoples of the world—what the people really are in their inner desires, and what we heard was beautiful and all who were present liked each other. The whole world seemed a more beautiful place. Australia, India, China, Japan, Poland, Greece, Italy, and each country seemed very near to every other country. Something beautiful, priceless, seemed to lie at the heart of each country. After all, the "language of the heart's desire," the language of play and recreation seemed much the same among the nations. The language of play and recreation activity seemed fairly universal. The light in the speaker's eyes, the outreach of the human spirit; the music and songs and dances of the various nations required no interpreter.

One felt like putting off one's shoes and baring one's head—as in the Old Testament days—for one was in the presence of reality—complete dedication, something simple and holy.

The delegates from twenty-nine different lands—wise men and women journeyed from afar—came together in one place and with deep reverence for the spirit of childhood considered how that spirit of play which is characteristic of childhood everywhere can be preserved throughout life in all lands so that all men and women while doing the work of the world shall still sing, still care for flowers, still have a "splash of splendor," still keep the joy of living, still keep the heart of a little child, still know the secret of eternal living.

Know you one another and thus you fulfill the law of peace. Share your songs, your music, your art, your sports, your "heart's desire" and you know you have shared what has greatest lasting value. Begin with what we have in common and the rest seems less important.

One international recreation conference has more value for world peace than ten disarmament conferences.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.

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October, 1932

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## Autumn in the Woods



*Courtesy Forest Preserve District of Cook County, Illinois*

# The Opportunity of the Church for Service in the Field of Recreation

By PHILIP C. JONES

Associate Pastor, Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church  
New York City

LET us look in on the church young men's athletic committee. Something serious is afoot. It doesn't take long to find out what it is. Visiting basketball teams always arrive late Saturday evenings. Games have to be concluded at half-past ten o'clock so that the janitors can prepare the gymnasium for Sunday School use. Of late the games have had to be shortened. The players want an extra half hour on the gymnasium floor. "Why do we have to stop playing at half-past ten?" is such a simple question but it has real educational possibilities.

## A Few of the Church's Problems

Inescapable considerations: How many hours a week must the janitors work? At what time must they report for duty on Sunday mornings? Why must they, being Negroes, live at a long distance from the church which is located in a "white" neighborhood, and thereby add two extra hours to each day's time? An innocent question has introduced some real issues: Is the church a fair employer of labor? Should

recreation take a heavy human toll? Is racial segregation fair? It is not a matter of a half hour on the gymnasium floor now; the giant problems of labor, the human cost of recreation and race relations have become recognized.

"But why can't the church employ some other men to clean up after the games?" comes the obvious question. More problems are demanding recognition. Where will the church get the money with which to pay them? How much does basketball cost the church? How much do the athletes help to bear the church's financial burden? Who pays for the broken locker doors, the towels not returned, the electric light bulbs, the new basketballs? Shall the missionary budget be cut to allow for this extra expense? Or will it be better to curtail the relief

There is much the church can do to promote such hobbies as handcraft and the many activities that are "just for fun"!

program of the church? These are no insignificant questions. The wide-flung work of the church; its opportunity to meet immediate human need; individual responsibility for the success of the





*Courtesy Department of Parks, Brooklyn, N. Y.*

Christian enterprise; our attitudes toward institutional property, have arrived on the scene.

Some other apparently innocent questions are pertinent.

Does *our* team report on time when they visit *other* churches? When do the basketball players and the spectators finally "get to bed?" In what "shape" do they report at the office or factory the next day? More problems present themselves—the keeping of appointments; health habits, fairness to employers; family cooperation.

The committee meets to find a way to acquire further privileges. It finds that there are great human problems intricately woven into a half hour of basketball. The meeting could well be the genesis of a year of study and action. *It could kindle a social passion.*

Perhaps the foregoing will serve to suggest the opportunity which the church has in keeping recreation ethical. It is the business of the church to insist that the human values involved in all activities be at least protected, if not enhanced. Through the medium of recreation, if its leadership is skillful and of social insight, the church can render an inestimable service.

There will be churches which interpret religion as an individual matter and which think of the leader's function as only priestly or prophetic.

**The picnic bids fair to maintain its popularity as a recreation activity for church groups, and there are many city parks which provide facilities.**

There will be churches where leaders are not fitted by temperament, training or aptitude for the difficult task of keeping recreation on a high ethical level.

In our illustration above we have thought of the athletic recreation of a group of young men. We must not think of recreation in this narrow sense, of course. We have in mind many kinds of group experience centered around some common interests or skills—club activities, appreciation groups, music, dramatics, athletics, social units and many others tending to make life more worthy and satisfying.

#### The Opportunity in the Field of Young People's Relationship

In addition to the ethical emphasis which the church can make, and should make, in connection with recreation, is the opportunity it has in the field of boy and girl and young men and young women relationships. The church will do well to afford young people of both sexes the opportunity to engage freely in carefully supervised recreation programs. Young people will associate freely, whether we like it or not. It were better to have this association on an idealistic plane. Many a choir, many a young people's society, many a Sunday School, has made a great contribution in

this matter of wholesome and happy fellowship.

I am not a believer in pious segregation in the name of religion. The implication that the sex urge is evil seems to me to be a denial of the very belief in a Divine Creator, though perhaps in saying that I am not in the true Presbyterian succession! If we constantly segregate young people in our educational system and discourage social intercourse in our churches, where and how will young people learn to understand persons of the opposite sex? It is possible that many homes are broken homes because a pious prudery conditioned husband and wife lead to inevitable emotional incompatibility.

It would seem that every church could render genuine service in this field. Education in home-making and parenthood could well be supplemented by many sorts of social and recreational activities designed to afford free and satisfying fellowship between the sexes. Games, dramatics, orchestras, choirs, dances, hikes, clubs and other recreational enterprises suited to varying interests, ages, skills, church policy, leadership, equipment and such circumstances are real ministries.

In our city boys and girls are segregated in high school. This seems to be a misfortune, but it affords our churches a very great opportunity. Boys do not see girls, and vice versa, except on the street and on the screen, or in objectionable places. Our churches can at least help our young people to "giggle through" to a normal attitude and to a condition of a semblance of poise in the presence of the opposite sex.

A word about leadership in this connection. In larger churches professional direction is available for the recreational program. In smaller ones ministers, untrained in this field, or lay leaders similarly untrained, are often called upon to assume responsibility. This does not seem to be such a handicap as it would at first appear. Let the leader share—let the recreational experience be initiated and controlled by the group, with the leader participating, rather than directing, and the experience becomes doubly valuable for all concerned.

We must beware of duplication. Often churches compete with public schools, playgrounds, settlements, Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations and other organizations functioning in the recreation field. This must not be, of course, for it is too costly in money and leadership, and takes too high a toll of energy from those involved.

A senior in high school was a popular and attractive leader in the high school department of our church. A year ago she was rehearsing for the leading part in a church dramatic production. I happened to call in her home one afternoon just as she returned from school. She seemed very tired and pale. I suggested that she go to a clinic. She went to a clinic, to bed, and to the Albany Hospital, a tuberculosis sanitarium, where she is recovering. She was being graduated from school, with countless festivities; she was carrying a heavy load in our church life. The total program was too much. We hold ourselves guilty, at least in part. Here was an opportunity for the church in the field of recreation, to protect a girl from such a breakdown. Perhaps our dramatic production was actually the last straw.

We must guard against too much recreation. But I hope I have made my point that the church can make a real contribution by affording boys and girls and young men and young women, through recreation, wholesome social intercourse, in an atmosphere of idealism.

#### Making Life "Lots of Fun"

One of the results of our reorganized social life, if we do have sense enough to have an organization instead of a machine-made chaos, will be a decided increase in the amount of our leisure time. The church will do well to anticipate this new condition and to be ready to help people, particularly adults, to make these available hours meaningful. We hear a lot about "adult education." I think of "recreational education," believing that the trend must be toward an informal, democratic method in which the education will be a by-product, rather than the end, in which the joy of creative expression, the making of life satisfying will be the end. (Of course, this is what we mean by true education, isn't it?) The growth of the Adult Education Movement is most encouraging. Adult Religious Education is going steadily forward. I expect to see great advances in the very near future along the line of "educational recreation" or "recreational education." "A vocational guidance" might be another way to put it.

One of our New York churches has a sculpture group. I should like to join it myself "just for fun." Life should be "lots of fun." Our religion has frowned upon our smiles; has forbidden our "good times." It would do better to pro-

claim that life is wholesome; it ought to bless our joys as much as it sanctifies our sorrows. Choral societies, dramatic clubs, art clubs, appreciation classes, athletics, nature studies, social activities. Make your own list. You can think of a dozen hobbies you'd like to undertake for your enjoyment.

The church can help to make life joyous, can afford a real antidote for the tedium of reading the tabloids or sitting in a rocking chair beside the kitchen stove. The medium is this "avocational education."

The church can help to keep recreation ethical; it can afford recreational fellowship between the sexes in an atmosphere of idealism; it can help to make life satisfying by affording what I have called "avocational recreation."

There is one more basic contribution the church can make through recreation. It can discharge its primary function as a religious institution. If young people are segregated from the church in the areas of recreation, they will segregate themselves from the church in the areas of worship and service. I resent the church's use of recreation as a lure. Recreation is a worthy value in itself, but if the church does afford recreation it is in a position to guide the religious growth of young people. If it is interested in the interests of the young, the young will be interested in the church's primary interest. Of course, it is not a matter of "give and take." Rather, under good leadership, is it a matter of one organization helping to unify life. The church which is interested in young people to the extent of affording them amusement, recreation and fellowship, is in a position to be of service in the realm of moral and ethical counselling, religious education and worship.

I should like to be a little fervent here in saying that the church's primary function is needed now, and if it is rightly emphasized it is acceptable now. Pious phrases will not help. Theological emphasis will not help. A purely individual morality will not help. But a vital social note, a rigorous devotion to truth, a mood of sacrifice, a concern for human welfare in every phase of our social organization will find an eager and cooperative response.

We are analytical, rational, clever, sophisticated; but we are powerless. We need the emotional motive force which religion alone can give. That is why we must not "tone down" the emphasis on religion. Without it we shall perish!

Have you ever seen a boy trying to be loyal to his scout troop, his Y.M.C.A., his school class and his church all at once? (Like the short story hero who mounted his horse and galloped swiftly in all directions!) The church must not compete for the boy's loyalties. It can seek to correlate them.

#### The Church Must Serve!

This brings us to a final caution. Let us never think of the church's good before we think of the individual's good. The individuals and the groups in our recreational program come first. What enriches their lives, brings joy, makes experience satisfying as it ought to be? That is of primary importance. The church must serve. If necessary, it must die to serve.

The experience of the church where it is my privilege to serve, where I have inherited a great tradition of liberal religion in faith and in action, and where an extensive recreational program does seem to make a genuine contribution in the ways which I have mentioned, makes me believe that the church as a whole should give added emphasis to its recreational program. What is to be done in an individual church will depend upon its leadership, its locality, its constituency, its equipment, and perhaps on its theology! We may need to redefine the objectives of the church; we may need to change our methods of educating church leaders; we may need to unlearn some of the theology our ancestors held with emotionalized tenacity. Whatever it costs, we must help to enrich experience. Recreation is a medium through which the church can serve with confidence.

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"Did you ever stop to think that nothing beautiful ever came into life until folks began to play?

"The spirit of play, which is the crown of work and of home life, is also the crown of religion. So much of our religion in America is dour and grim. It does not bounce.

"One commonly hears religion presented as a necessity. 'You must be religious,' the preacher seems to say. Well, I agree that religion is a necessity. I do not think that civilization will proceed without it. But a vital religion is much more than that; it is a luxury. It is something to celebrate and hold festival over.

"There is great satisfaction in life for those who take it always in a sporting spirit—for those who are living for the fun of it."—*Harry Emerson Fosdick*, in *Living for the Fun of It*.

# A Center That Knows No Depression



It is called the Green Lake Field House but it strongly resembles a beehive, so teeming with activity is every corner.

HERE is no depression in the community recreation "business" in Seattle. On the contrary, a decided boom is in progress that has seen all field house attendance records broken during the first month of operation of the 1931-32 program. Never before in the twenty-year history of field house operation in Seattle has there been such consistently high attendance in these buildings.

Green Lake field house, Seattle's newest and largest community recreation center, was opened in October, 1929, and has been the center of our attendance. Its fourth week of operation this fall showed an official class attendance of 4,939. Green Lake's structure is one of the seven community recreation centers in the city built by the taxpayers and operated and maintained by the Seattle Park Board. A twin to the \$125,000 Green Lake building is in operation in the Rainier district, although it lacks one wing that will be completed as soon as a sufficient bond issue is voted. The other five field houses are of older

*By BEN EVANS  
Superintendent of Recreation  
Park Department, Seattle, Washington*

design, having been built in 1912. They are situated in the heart of suburban population centers with the one exception of Collins field house, which serves the downtown residential district.

During its first fourteen months of operation Green Lake field house served 130,000 in its various classes. In addition to the attendance at classes, thousands have made use of the building's play facilities. Twenty thousand children used the adjacent twelve-acre playfield during the summer. As many more used the field house locker and shower room accommodations during the swimming season, when part of the field house is converted into a bath house. The stage is used for a bag room and the dressing rooms in each wing are used for the swimmers, leaving the social rooms and gymnasium floor free for other activities. These figures do not include attendance at plays, pageants, athletic games and similar public functions featured at the field house; hence an estimate of the total patronage at the Green Lake plant for the 1931-32 season will reach a quarter of a million.

### The Equipment

The field house is located on the shore of Green Lake, a 250-acre lake in the northern section of the city. This district is a large residential section of the city and is tributary to the University of Washington campus. The building is 146 by 110 feet over-all, and is of reinforced concrete throughout, resting on pile foundations driven below the level of the adjacent lake. The exterior is finished in cement stucco of buff color, and trimmed in cast stone. The interior is plastered throughout, with the exception of the auditorium ceiling which is covered with acoustical material. The floors of the social rooms and gymnasium are of maple, the rest of colored cement.

The activities of the building center around the gymnasium and stage. The gymnasium, 90 by 60 feet, is of ample size to accommodate large groups of spectators around the regulation basketball court and is easily convertible into an auditorium seating 750 persons facing the stage. The locker, shower, service room and physical director's office complete the first floor. The second floor has two large social rooms, a large game hall, and a kitchen adjacent to the social rooms.

The stage is complete with an all steel gridiron and fly-gallery with a capacity of thirty sets. The stage switchboard is equipped with dimmers in three colors for controlling the footlights and three sets of border lights, making any reasonable theatrical effect possible. The stage is 35 feet wide and proportionately deep.

The locker rooms have steel dressing booths and lockers and are serviced with hot and cold water showers. Equipment includes 100 steel lockers on the men's side and 85 in the women's section. The heating plant is a forced feed hot water installation supplemented with a system for heating and washing the air in the gymnasium. In addition, the gymnasium can be ventilated by opening the two continuous monitor skylights in the roof.

Each of the two social rooms is 20 by 40 feet, with a well equipped kitchen adjacent. Each has a fireplace, hardwood floors, piano and appropriate furnishings for any type of social affair.

### The Program

Many activities can be carried on simultaneously during winter months. Basketball and other indoor games are conducted in the gymnasium, children's games on the stage and in game halls, and social functions in the club rooms. None conflicts in any way with the others.

A bird's-eye view of the activity program at Green Lake will give a general idea of the program followed in all similar centers, and at the same time it will show in detail the operation of the largest of Seattle's public play centers. Classes are held continuously from 2:00 until 10:00 P.M. every day and from 9:00 A.M. until 6:00 P.M. Saturdays. Each Friday afternoon sees a large gathering of grade school children gathered for a holiday program or fun frolic of some sort, while Saturday evening until midnight is reserved for general adult recreation. Friday evenings are also open to adult recreation, with athletic games as the usual feature. The daily gymnasium classes are for children in the afternoons and adults in the evening. Handcraft and gift making classes for women are held once or twice a week, as are tap dancing, art and similar classes for housewives. Natural dancing and tap dancing instruction is given junior girls on Saturday

afternoons. Social rooms are so situated that their functions can be carried on independent of all other field house activities, with the result that parties, dances, musicals, club meetings, civic gatherings and a variety of community social events are conducted simultaneously with other community cen-

ter functions.

### A Week's Activity

A good idea of the scope of the field house may be gained by following through a week's activity. The building opens at 2:00 P.M. Monday, and the pupils from neighboring grade schools soon gather at the building. A gymnasium class for small girls, six to nine years, is the first group to use the gymnasium, followed by a class of girls from nine to twelve

**There are community buildings in some cities which, practically unused, have become "white elephants" through lack of proper leadership, financing and program planning. Here is an inspiring example of a community house that is the center around which the leisure time life of the community revolves. In its first fourteen months of operation the house served 130,000 people in the various organized classes conducted.**

years, another from twelve to fourteen, and a fourth of girls from fourteen to sixteen. From 6:00 until 7:00 P.M. the gymnasium is open to outside organized groups for practice sessions. From 7:00 to 8:00 o'clock a group of high school boys has the gymnasium followed during the next hour by a class of business men for calisthenics. The last class of the day is for mens' sports. During the afternoon and evening the club rooms are used by community groups, while at various times youngsters play games in the large upstairs game halls or on the stage. This program is duplicated on Wednesday.

Tuesday afternoon's first class is for senior women's gymnasium during the period between the opening of the building and the dismissal of school. Then for the remainder of afternoon boys play in their gymnasium classes, grouped according to age and size much the same as the girls were. The first evening class is for high school girls, with senior women using the floor for the final two hours. This program is followed again on Thursday.

Friday afternoon the boys and girls gather in the gymnasium for a general mixer, a party, possibly an entertainment program on the stage. They play in separate classes for the first four days of the week, hence the general mixer each Friday. In the evening Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls and similar junior organizations hold their meetings in the building. Older boys' and men's inter-field house athletic games, principally basketball, are played on Friday evenings, after which the building is open for general adult recreation.

Saturday morning sees the boys engage in their inter-field house sports competition, sometimes playing in their home gymnasium and at other times visiting another field house. Dancing classes are held Saturday afternoon, with separate classes for girls of different ages. These are exceptionally popular and attract 500 or more junior girls each Saturday to Green Lake alone. Saturday evening is devoted to adult recreation. The supervisors cooperate with parents, guardians and school officials by not scheduling activities for juniors in the evenings of school days, except on special occasions.

The social rooms are used free of charge by any community group simply by applying

and reserving the date desired. They serve for meetings, dramatics, musicals, institutes, civic welfare meetings, lectures, dances and a variety of social gatherings. Either an organized club or an unorganized group in the community may use the facilities. Card playing is prohibited, as are meetings of a religious or political nature. Between five and six hundred groups will take advantage of these facilities this year, with a total of nearly 20,000.

Friday afternoon junior mixers are the magnet for 25,000 children during the eight-month season. Eleven hundred attended this year's opening party, a circus and wild west show, but some programs of a different type are limited to groups of five hundred. These parties take the form of stunt shows, game parties, treasure, circuses and similar mixers. Others are stage programs observing holidays or historical events of national prominence. Such plays and pageants are held at Christmas and Thanksgiving, Columbus Day, Hallowe'en, birthdays of Washington and Lincoln, Arbor Day and similar occasions. The entertainment in these cases is provided by the youngsters who present skits and plays of an informal nature.

### Drama

Juvenile dramatics play an important part in the field house activities. A Junior Dramatic Club operates in each center for all interested in taking part. Instruction is given by the men and women supervisors under the leadership of a general director who has charge of all juvenile dramatics. Frank P. Giles, founder of community dramatics in Seattle and a leader of such activities for twenty years, has performed this task for many years for the Park Department.

A "spring play" is given each year as the feature of the juvenile dramatics season. This play is presented in each field house, with a local cast for each production. Two shows are given at each center, making a total of fourteen during its "run." In many cases changes are made in casts for the two shows at a single field house, thus bringing the largest possible number of children into the performance. Approximately 500 boys and girls between the ages of four and sixteen participate in this spring play each year, while 10,000 or more parents and interested adults attend the

(Continued on page 355)

# Memories That Will Live

By AUGUSTUS D. ZANZIG

National Recreation Association

**A**RECREATION CONGRESS is an inspiring and gladsome affair. The mere mention of Atlantic City, Toronto, Louisville and other cities that have been our hosts brings memories to every Congressman of stimulating talks, vital discussions, demonstrations, generous hospitality and the best sort of fellowship. Full days they are, at a Congress; for many of us they have been two-breakfast days, the second dairy-meal a closing "cup o' kindness" taken in the wee sma' hours.

That is a National Congress. The *International* Congress was even more inspiring and joyous, its greatest implications—seen, heard and felt many times during the week—turning one with new hope toward the best dreams of poets and prophets. And that isn't all. The International Congress was the first one of at least national scope to be held on the Pacific Coast, in the Golden State, the romantic West, in Los Angeles! Add to this the presence in the city of 2,000 Olympian athletes and the presence in our pockets of a ticket to one or more Olympic events to occur immediately after the Congress! Surely nothing more was needed to make a red-letter week. Yet, thanks to the limitless hospitality of our California hosts,



## No delegate to the International Recreation Congress will ever forget California's hospitality!

worthy of an article in this magazine.

The international play festival, "Play Unites the Nations," was the most beautiful expression of this kind that we have ever seen. (And this "we" is not an editorial one alone.) Nothing can have greater significance than this, so we will start with it.

It was held on Wednesday evening in the Pasadena Rose Bowl where, from the seats reserved

for Congressers, we saw first of all the natural pageant of the Sierras in the afterglow of the sunset. Standing nearly a mile above the friendly lowlands surrounding us, these majestic hills put on priestly robes of purple, the hems studded here and there with a jewel of light, as though making ready for the evening service. We continued to feel their presence even after the darkness hid them.

The festival prelude was played by a band hidden in a specially arranged arbor; a bright majestic march it was, played by the Pasadena Recreation Department Boys' Band. Then came trumpeters in gay array from the north and south, the four of them meeting in the center and sounding a stirring call. A hundred Sprites of Joy answered, dancing in from arbored entrances far to either side of what we were to discover as the throne of play. If the reader knows the fairy-like Scherzo from Mendelssohn's music to "A Midsummer Night's Dream," let him imagine the most gay and exquisite dancing to it. The Pasadena Civic Orchestra, likewise hidden in a bower of green, played that music, and there through ear and eye the very essence of play was revealed!

Another trumpet call brought the messengers of Play, her kindred spirits of Friendship, Peace, Good Will and World Unity, the music for their procession being the fine Triumphal March from Grieg's "Sigurd Jorsalfar." Friendship and Peace entered in succession from the south, and the other two from the north, each followed by a very large company of attendants moving along—they seemed to be floating—in a long line of color. The four curved but differing lines made by these lovely high school girls bearing palm leaves or floral sprays, a line of orange and one of green from the south, and red and blue from the north, made one feel like a creating artist as they moved slowly toward fulfillment. It was like seeing the lines of a great picture being drawn before one, or like drawing them oneself, and all in exquisite color. One of our leading delegates, a renowned architect from Mexico, exclaimed later, "The composition was beautiful throughout!" These graceful lines converged in handsome groups on the many steps of the throne,

leaving a clear path to the throne itself for the Spirit of Play, who was to come later.

Another trumpet call and then we heard the clear voice of Friendship:

"Hearken, people of every land,  
I come with Peace, World Unity and Good Will  
To bid you welcome . . .  
The Spirit of Play will come  
To weave for you a magic spell,  
And bring to you her precious gifts  
That joy may with you ever dwell.  
These precious gifts—music, dance and games,  
Will help all men to cast away greed,  
To right old wrongs,  
End worldly strife,  
To cherish youth,  
Rejoice in freedom,  
Know beauty  
And find great joy in simple things."

"Oh people of every land,  
Give glad welcome to the spirit of play!"

Mr. John Hallam of the Pasadena Community Playhouse was the voice.

The orchestra now played the Ponchielli "Dance of the Hours," and the Spirit of Play appeared, a lovely creature in white, whose grace and freedom made the entire field of the bowl her own though she danced alone and only in the middle of it. At the final, most animated portion of the music Play beckoned to her attendants, and the orange, green, red and blue lines moved again before us, this time dancing in the fullness and joy of the musical rhythm. The closing measures brought Play and the attendants to the throne where she was escorted to her seat of honor by Friendship and crowned by her with a floral wreath.

Again the trumpets called. Play by gesture summoned the nations to appear in dance, music

and games, and the voice of Friendship was once more heard announcing the coming of many peoples with their gifts of joy. Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" was heard from the orchestra, and two processions bearing the flags of all nations moved from the same north and south to the center and then formed a line on either side of the throne. The resulting design presented at the throne was lovely indeed: the Spirit of Play high on her throne, the attendants grouped on the

**In view of the fact that the proceedings of the Congress are to be published in a separate volume, little is said in this article of the sessions, which, as in the past, consisted of general and section meetings. This year there was added zest and interest in the presence of almost a hundred delegates from other countries who told of their sports and outdoor life and shared in discussions of mutual problems. The responsibility of government for the recreation of the people proved a subject of absorbing interest to the representatives of other lands, who expressed great enthusiasm over the demonstration of municipal, county and federal administration which they had seen in the United States.**

lower steps on either side of her, and the flag-bearers with their many colors extending out to either side of this central "tableau." But the richest fulfillment was still to come.

As the music continued, groups from all the nations came dancing, strolling, leaping, laughing, playing into the bowl from the north and south, all in costume. All that is best, brightest and friendliest in the peoples of the world was released there before us, a never-to-be-forgotten token of the liberating power and friendliness of play. One was reminded of Shiller's words that are gloriously sung in Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

One by one the various peoples came to the center to dance or sing or do both, each heralded by the trumpeters and welcomed by the voice of Friendship: British, Irish, Swedish, Danish, Japanese, Tyrolean, German, Slavonic, Czechoslovakian, Mexican and American Indian, each group composed of people—mostly adults who, though Californians now, are natives or children of natives of the country represented by them. Each group came bringing its own folk music and dancing, and was cheered to the echo by all the others who filled all but the center of the bowl and thus added still another and the greatest wing to each side of the lovely design.

Though each performing group was courteously watched by the others, there was perfect freedom among the latter. Some joined in the dancing or carried on some other movement to the music while remaining in their part of the field. Some who were too far off to see the performers well played games of their own. During the Mexicans' dance in which there were two claps of the hands at the end of each phrase, not only did many of the other people on the field clap with them, but more and more of the audience also joined in the merry expression; spontaneous community dancing, if you please, and a remarkably joyous affair.

Our own United States were represented by groups from the Los Angeles Playgrounds, schools and industries, and from the University of Southern California, all in a mimetic sports

drill. Just before they appeared, a trumpet call followed by "The Stars and Stripes Forever" brought the Goddess of Liberty to the field followed by bearers of the flags of twenty-four of our States and met by another procession of the other twenty-four coming from the other entrance. Liberty took a place directly in front of the foot of the throne, and the flag-bearers stood at each end of the field, thus embracing the peoples of all the other nations who had come to live in this country.

Friendship spoke again:

"Oh, people of every land,  
America now calls to you  
To join in a dance for all!"

The orchestra played "Turkey in the Straw" and all joined in a Virginia Reel. This done and the center cleared, the Spirit of Play descended from the throne, followed by her attendants, and formed for a dance in the center, the orchestra playing a spirited waltz. All the other participants formed a large broad circle of friendship around them.

The Sprites of Joy who began the festival now brought it to a close with their dancing while Play, her attendants, and all the others looked on. Doves of peace were released, Friendship

made a plea for perpetual good-will among the peoples of the world, and a men's chorus from the Glendale Presbyterian Church sang Gounod's "Unfold, Ye Portals!"

We need such festivals everywhere. Mrs. Minette Brodke Spector, who wrote and directed it so admirably, is Supervisor of Industrial Recreation for the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department. She disclaims any special training in pageantry or festivals and insists that the fine success was due to the unstinted cooperation of the Recreation Departments of Pasadena, Long Beach and Los Angeles, and especially to the participants who, she says, "were marvelous in their responsiveness and dependability." One group came from as far away as Santa Barbara; all, of course, taking part only for the love and meaning of the activity. The Sprites of Joy, the Spirit of Play and all her attendants, and the

*Joy, thou star from heav'n appearing,  
Daughter from Elysium,  
We approach thy light so cheering,  
To thy altar now we come.  
Thou hast pow'r to bind together  
What the world would rend apart,  
And where'er thy light wings flutter,  
Love and peace are in the heart.*

*Joy, 'tis Joy! From heav'n descended,  
Turns unseen the wheel of life,  
Joy by love and hope attended,  
Leading hearts from wordly strife,  
Draws the stream from hidden sources,  
Stirs the seed in earth confined,  
Rolls the stars along their courses,  
Moves the hearts of all mankind.*

international flag-bearers were enlisted by the Pasadena Recreation Department; the Goddess of Liberty and her flag-bearers were brought by the Long Beach Recreation Department.

Already there have come requests from the participants, especially the national groups, that other occasions be found or provided when they may again have the joy of such a festival.

It must be admitted that Southern California with its enchanting outdoor places and dependable weather offers ideal physical conditions for such a festival. And it may also be said that a love of life, the prizing of health, beauty and joyous expression for themselves, that makes such an enterprise a natural and welcome one, has evidently possessed the hearts of an unusually large proportion of the people of California. The superb development of recreational activities and facilities is a token of this. But let us do all we can to find or increase that prizing of the best in life in all our cities through festivals that are really festive, joyous, are beautiful in music, color, motion and design, are richly significant, and are very well done.

#### The Legend of the Pool

Like the International Play Festival, the Congress itself was opened by sprites of joy. Our first general session took place at the Swimming Stadium where, after a welcoming address by Los Angeles' Mayor Porter and a response by Belgium's Count de Baillet Latour, President of the International Olympic Committee and a member of the International Recreation Congress Advisory Committee, the "Legend of the Pool" was performed for us. This Celtic legend of mermaids, a lost bell and a stolen cap of magic, of sweethearts, and a mid-summer festival of swimmers, divers and simple fisher-folk had, in the romantic atmosphere of Los Angeles taken unto itself also fairies, nymphs, moonlight and the dawn, birds, fireflies, frogs and water-lilies, gardens, shepherds and shepherdesses, flower, fruit and balloon vendors, milkmaids, a goose-

girl with her geese, jugglers and tumblers, gypsies and village boys and girls all in a dramatically true masque.

Play of the imagination?—It was a perfect holiday for that power in us that can transmute even the dullest world into a fairyland of delight. And this pool of the Swimming Stadium is at any time far from being a dull place. The Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department was, through its gifted Mrs. Van Werden, entirely responsible for this masque. And one of its orchestras provided all the large amount of good musical accompaniment. As in the play festival, there was excellence of performance and design throughout. The sports of the mermaids and then of the swimming and diving "fisher-folk" in the pool were wonderfully well done, and the dancing of the other groups was of the same free and lovely sort that we enjoyed later in the play festival, already described. The liberation and joy of this kind of dancing make one realize again that dancing is the oldest and most fundamental of the arts. Dr. Jacks is undoubtedly right in pleading for such dancing by everyone. The truth of the chapter on "Rhythmic Human Companionship" in his recent book entitled "Education Through Recreation" was beautifully illustrated in the "Legend of the Pool."

#### The Music Festival

On Sunday evening we saw and heard impressive examples of another sort of "rhythmic

**It was a rare privilege the delegates had in seeing the beautiful and joyous production, the "Legend of the Pool."**



human companionship" in the Griffith Park Greek Theatre which, in its beautiful architecture, is itself such an example, a fine kind of "frozen music." A large band made up of three recreation department bands from Los Angeles and Long Beach started the festival with two Sousa marches which were followed by a short period of community singing in which the large audience showed international possibilities by learning readily to sing a Round in French. The Glendale Symphony Orchestra played a Beethoven overture, the Long Beach Civic Chorus sang well-known choruses from Haydn's "Creation," Mendelssohn's "Elijah" and Handel's "Messiah," and the Albritton Jubilee Chorus of Los Angeles Negroes were as moving and enjoyable as such a chorus can be when singing spirituals. The massed band, directed in the beginning by Harold Robert who is in charge of music in the Olympiad, played the closing overture and grand march under the baton of Herbert L. Clarke, the renowned conductor of the Long Beach Municipal Band. During that march a processional of Camp Fire Girls bearing the flags of the nations moved inspiringly down the side aisles to the stage where, extending across the entire front thereof, they were greeted by the band's playing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" meant to betoken the loyalty that is paid to every flag by its followers.

The processional was not the only factor in making this an international festival. There were several nations directly represented in the audience and many more nations, through descendants, in the membership of the bands, orchestra and choruses. Moreover, the excellent music on the program is known and loved in every country. It speaks a common language that makes us all kin. Perhaps the most impressive thing about this music festival was the demonstration that it gave of admirable music admirably performed as a means of recreation by groups whose origin or maintenance is due to the work of a recreation department.

John Norviel of Glendale was chairman of the committee which organized the festival.

#### Tours and a Barbecue

Tuesday's tour through Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills, Santa Monica

**It would be impossible to tell of all the many acts of hospitality which made the Congress memorable, or of the unfailing courtesy of city and county officials. To these officials, to members of the staffs of the recreation departments in cities which entertained the delegates so delightfully, and to the thousands of children who took part in pageants, festivals, plays, and similar events, the first International Recreation Congress is deeply indebted.**

and the beaches, ending with a delightful tea at the Poinsettia Playground given by the staff of the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department; and Wednesday's tour of Glendale, Pasadena and the "Orange Belt," ending with a barbecue, gave us enough to talk about to our home folks for weeks to come. The many beautiful views, the splendid playgrounds and parks, the visit to the Fox movie studio, to the magnificent Huntington Library and Art Gallery, and to the Pasadena Community Playhouse, to say nothing of a dozen other red-letter experiences, were not all that made these tours memorable. A group of recreation leaders in a bus are likely to be a good "show" in themselves, and in these tours an international show. A group of Hawaiian delegates, with their ukuleles, guitars and real Hawaiian tunes and singing, delighted people from Oakland, San Francisco, North Dakota and New York in one bus, and a group of singing Mexicans added to the merriment of an international company in another.

The sociability of the Wednesday tour had its climax in the old-fashioned Spanish California Barbecue that awaited us in a Pasadena park. To those of us who knew only the roadside "barbecues" that tire the eyes of motorists, it was a revelation! A Mexican chorus affiliated with the Los Angeles Playground and Recreation Department entertained us, and soon thereafter we were seated in the Rose Bowl to see the international play festival.

#### The Closing Luncheon

Having started this article in the Rose Bowl, we should, in keeping with the Californian sense of beauty, end it there. But we must go on. The closing luncheon of the Congress became also a festival, though not called so. Several of the leading foreign delegates, each speaking briefly of his impressions of the Congress, took us once

more from nation to nation with a sense of the power that play has of making us all kin. Each one spoke with thoughtful admiration and sincerity.

Just before the speaking there came out of the California of 400 years ago a handsome company of young people in the costumes of the time, and danced for us.

Descendants they are of the Spanish adventurers who first gave to that land of the Franciscan Missions and the vast Ranches the glow of romance that even the gold rush and the booming and boasting of cities have not destroyed. Those adventurers, unlike the settlers in our northeastern states, brought their old world culture with them, with all its grace, urbanity and fine sense of the behavior befitting a lady and a gentleman. Their descendants brought it to us in dancing to fascinating old Spanish and Mexican music. The charm, courtesy and yet full gaiety of those dances, even of the faster, more vigorous ones, make one wonder again at the cultural wealth still hidden in this country of many peoples that can enrich American life and help in unifying it if only we can recover sufficiently from a century of progress and lost leisure to see it, enjoy it and take unto ourselves whatever of it each one finds to be true to his or her own nature.

In spite of the many good aesthetic influences described herein, this article will end with an introduction. But the Irish, at least, who are a great, beauty-loving people, will not mind that; for it was none other than a good Irishman who said, "I always was behind before, but now I'm first at last." The introduction we are meaning to describe is composed of the experiences of a jolly company of about thirty Congressers on their way to Los Angeles on the Pennsylvania and Union Pacific Railroads. If RECREATION were a magazine only for them, we could fill a whole issue with those experiences. But we must be brief if only out of deference to the hundreds of readers who would only be made too envious of us by a full account of our exploits.

To begin with, we boarded two Pullman cars at Pennsylvania Station in New York with the comfort of knowing that they would be home for us from one end of the country to the other. We were soon entirely at ease in an international

company that included Miss Legg and Miss Barlow of England and Dr. de Molner of Hungary. We later discovered as fellow-travelers the Polish Olympic team and the Polish Surgeon-General, Dr. Rouppert, who was one of the Congress delegates.

#### Chicago Greets Us!

After an afternoon and evening of chatting with frequent changing of partners, we were on the next morning very cordially greeted in Chicago by a committee of the city's recreation executives.

From then until supper-time we were treated like a delegation of European premiers come to see the city. The special bus and private cars in which we rode were preceded by two motorcycle policemen whose sirens sent out an almost continuous calling that cleared the way and made traffic lights of no account whatever to us. We were taken through the botanical Conservatory with its unexcelled collection of tropical plants; we had impressive views of Chicago's superb parks and playgrounds, and demonstrations of crafts were given for us by children in the recreation center at Gage Park, though it was a beautiful Sunday. We toured the great Naval Pier and from its farthest point away out in the lake we saw the city's majestic skyline. We visited the Stadium, and we entered the Science Building of the Century of Progress Exposition where, among other striking exhibits, we saw a model of the entire Exposition grounds as they will look when all the buildings are completed;

a wonderful prospect that gave us. But most remarkable of all, we thought, were the views we got of the city's twenty-five miles of fine beaches. Those we saw were as attractive as the beaches at our seaside resorts, and the large number of people using them, fine and healthy looking in their swimming suits, completed in full measure a scene such as we go many miles to see and be



The parks of Chicago, which some of the delegates were privileged to visit, are devoted to serving the people.

a part of and then dream of through all the long months until the next vacation time. To make many miles of such a vacation land in the city and to have it used as we saw it used, all with the more than willing support of the taxpayers (as they have supported the great development of parks) is an achievement of which not only Chicago but the whole nation can be proud.

We were guests of the South Shore Country Club for luncheon at their handsome and luxurious clubhouse where from our host, Mr. George Donahue, President of the South Park Commission, Colonel Gaw who spoke for the Mayor, Mrs. Purvin and others we learned more of the idealism that is making Chicago one of the best cities in the world. In the evening we were given free use of some rooms at the fine Stevens Hotel where we stayed, or walked in the lakeside park which it faces, until train time brought us back to our Pullmans which had been attached to the Union Pacific train that took us all the way to Oakland. The talk as we were gathered at the station was full of praise for the experiences of that day and for the Chicago people who had provided them for us.

We must pass quickly over the journey from Chicago to the Pacific though there is much to tell of the beauties of desert, hills and sky, of singing in the moonlight as we sat or stood on the observation

platform, and of short walks in places where the train stayed for more than a few minutes, places that in our childhood we thought of as the "wild west" of Indians and cowboys. Mayor Buckingham of Bridgeport, Connecticut, who was with us from beginning to end of our journey and of the Congress, was our spokesman at all social functions such as we had in Chicago and, later, in Oakland, San Francisco and elsewhere. He was also our photographer. One of the chief events of the Congress for us, for what we then called the Alumni Association of the Union Pacific Railroad, was the Mayor's showing of the three reels of motion pictures he took of us on that journey and in the cities we visited.

On a hot day Mr. Braucher did us the kindness of having a birthday which gave us the opportunity to surprise him with an afternoon party in the cool diner, a very jolly affair.

#### At Last—California!

Our introduction to California hospitality was made in Oakland where upon arriving on a fresh sunny morning we were greeted by officials of the recreation staffs of Oakland and other "bay cities." In a fleet of automobiles we were guided

to the Oakland Hotel by three extremely efficient and courteous motorcycle policemen.

Native flowers, eucalyptus trees and palms seen on the way were a fitting accompaniment to our feelings and curiosity on being at last in the Golden State. After ample time for a leisurely breakfast we gathered in the hotel lobby, were given copies of an itinerary for the tour, and a verbal plan for the rest of the day which included an offer of the use of an automobile for any one who cared to go anywhere in the evening. The tour took us through Oakland, Piedmont, Berkeley, Richmond and Alameda and showed us playgrounds and other recreation centers that made one of our Eastern delegates exclaim, "I thought we were doing pretty

A few of the guests who enjoyed the barbecue in the beautiful setting of the grove given San Francisco by Mrs. Sigmund Stern.





well in recreation in our town, but I can see now that we are 'pikers.' "

The University campus with its celebrated Greek Theatre also interested us,

and the lovely homes, hills and views from the Skyline Drive were a great delight to see. Mills College, a most interesting modern educational center, entertained us delightfully at tea. Luncheon and gracious talks under the trees in beautiful Mosswood Park were followed by a playlet given by children in an outdoor theatre nearby. The place for this theatre, which is now very attractive, was formerly an ugly park dump. Here we saw for the first time what we observed again and again during the rest of our stay in California: the freedom and spontaneity of the children's dramatic and musical activities and dancing, and yet the unusual excellence of it. We saw hundreds of children at play on that day in different places and in all sorts of activities, including handcrafts, and we ourselves had a swim in a fine large pool that is in charge of the recreation department of Richmond. If any further proof is needed of the valuable effects of recrea-

**Down the hill, winding through the towering eucalyptus trees, came a procession of dancers and singers in gaily colored Spanish costumes, and for a few brief moments we lived again in the early days of California.**

tion facilities and leadership in a city, we can turn with confidence to the achievements in health and joyous expression that are to be seen again and again

in the California "bay cities."

After a night's rest in that good Oakland hotel in which beds do not shake and there are no cinders or dust to which four nights on a train had accustomed us, we crossed on the upper deck of a ferry to San Francisco. The most thrilling way to approach a city such as San Francisco is by ferry, and we enjoyed it thoroughly. The Hungarian Olympic team was also on the upper deck and they sang for us. In San Francisco we met the same generous hospitality that was shown us in the "bay cities." We saw fine playgrounds, including a Chinese one, the Park Commission's Yacht Harbor, the Palace of Fine Arts, the fine Lincoln Golf Course, the beautiful Legion of Honor building also administered by the Park Commission, Golden Gate Park—an almost magical outgrowth of the imagination and work of Mr. John McLaren—and the

(Continued on page 356)

# Police Commissioner Mulrooney on Recreation Budgets

New York's Police Commissioner tells why he believes it unwise to begin budget cutting with children's playgrounds.

By J. C. WALSH  
Member, Board of Directors  
National Recreation Association

POLICE COMMISSIONER Edward P. Mulrooney, besides being exceedingly efficient in that office, has come to be recognized as the most convincing advocate of recreation there is in New York. The two, in fact, go together. When he was appointed he was unknown except to other members of the police force. Presently the newspapers were full of his activities in hunting down desperate criminals, especially those who made free with the lives of police officers. It was not long before he had the ear of the people, and when he speaks on subjects off the line of duty it is generally about recreation. What he says may be the same as what others say, but his background is special and when he speaks it is with authority. When he was interviewed for RECREATION it took less than a minute for him to brush in that background.

"The picture," he said, "is always the same. In the police line-up every morning what is it we see? A lot of youngsters from eighteen to twenty-three. There must be a reason for that. It isn't in the papers yet, but just last night three of



*Underwood and Underwood*

Commissioner Mulrooney combines practise with theory. He instituted the Bureau of Crime Prevention with Miss Henrietta Additon as head. This marks a new departure in social service that may, in future years, prove of utmost importance. And he has had his staff organize citizens' committees in all the precincts as an aid to his Sand Lot League of over 2,000 members, not many of whom, he feels confident, will find their way to the morning lineup, especially for killing police officers, who are trainers for the clubs.

callous about his men being killed. Far from it. He has made that sport most unpopular, in fact. The man who entered a hospital and killed a policeman more than a year ago came to a violent end recently after doing his best to kill the officer

them stole a motor car and started out on their rounds. They held up two speakeasies and then went into a store. People on the street knew what was going on. Just then three of our men passed on their way home. The news put them on duty again. They knew that place had three doors. They are trained to know such things. One went to each door. The first man in was killed by a bullet through the forehead. The one who killed him was eighteen—the oldest of the group was twenty-five. They had the limelight this morning, but there were plenty of others of the same ages. You cannot look at that kind of line-up every morning without doing some thinking about why it is always the same."

As the story was told it sounded impersonal, something that had become, through long familiarity, just part of the day's work. The Commissioner is not

who tried to arrest him, and Mr. Mulrooney was on the scene as fast as a train could take him. But catching the criminals does not appeal to his mind as constituting a complete answer to the police problem.

"We catch criminals, and then we turn them over to others. And then what happens? If you will think back over what has been said and done these last few years you will see that a lot of time and trouble is devoted to these people. At one time you have a wave of sentimentality. The criminal is held to be just a poor unfortunate of whom no better is to be expected, and society is invited to coddle him for his own and the general good. Then you get a wave of opinion demanding punishments of extreme severity. The law imposes such penalties, and then presently there is a demand for mercy because the penalties are unreasonable. So the pendulum swings, and neither recourse produces any definite results. The criminal is still there. The State has to spend more and still more money on him. They try better buildings, they try better psychiatry, they blow hot and cold on parole systems, and still the tribe increases. We here have been wondering whether it might not be both better and cheaper to start at the other end. We think he might be caught before he becomes a criminal, and see for ourselves whether he really has to be. That is where we begin to be interested in the possibilities of recreation."

"You mean that recreation is a help?"

"Of course it is a help. People may say we are just theorizing, but we see a good deal that goes on, and we know that where a boys' club or a playground flourishes we have less delinquency to deal with, and delinquency, to the police officer, is the by-path that opens on the main road to crime."

"Is it then your idea that if a boy does not have the kind of play that is good for him he will turn to something that is not so good?"

"Certainly. A boy's mind is active, and a growing boy must have play. It is as much his due, over a certain period, as food. 'The thoughts of a child are long, long thoughts.' Life in a great city is hard on children. Many of them live in tenements piled six deep or more on every block. The homes in them are not all they might be. Neither are the boys' parents; not always. Lots of good people have been poor, but plenty of poor people are not so good. The children may be underfed, weak in body, discontented in spirit, and

for relief where are they to go? No place for them but the street where they are at the mercy of every bully if they are weak, apt to turn into bullies themselves if they are strong. That is the foundation of the gang spirit, whereas what is needed is the team spirit. We know that the gang is the nucleus of crime. And we know, too, that the boys' club, the playground, have the opposite tendency. That is why we are for wholesome recreation as the first move towards keeping boys, yes and girls, of eighteen out of the morning line-up." *200*

"No doubt you have noticed that there is a tendency to cut down on the appropriations for such purposes in the present budgetary emergency. Do you favor that?"

"I sympathize with the budget makers, of course. I have troubles getting them to see even the police needs as I see them and to provide accordingly. But you don't suppose the difficulties parents are experiencing just now, most of all in the tenement districts, are making the problem any easier for the child on the streets, do you? We here know something about it. We ought to. Last year we distributed a quarter of a million in cash and made 800,000 allotments of food, to say nothing of clothes for 75,000 children. Where they are without so much, we ought, if we can, to leave them what little happiness can be got out of their play. Suppose we took it away. The bill would come in later, part of it for the police department, part of it for the maintenance of criminals. Maybe I am wrong, but my present belief is that the money spent in maintaining a few criminals will keep an infinitely larger number out of the ranks of crime, besides letting the city youngster have the play happiness he is entitled to like any other child. With finances in all cities the way they are, I don't suppose we can look for new capital outlays on parks and open spaces, but I don't see eye to eye with those who begin with children's playgrounds when they start budget cutting. Of course, they soon find they are wrong in doing so, but a little reflection in advance would have told them that."

"In the last analysis, if there is to be any permanent diminution of crime, we shall have to look to our adolescents. . . . Educators and social workers know from actual experience that juvenile delinquency gives way before supervised playgrounds and well organized boys' and kindred organizations." *Lewis E. Lawes in "20,000 Years in Sing Sing."*

# Hallowe'en on the Playground



Comes again the night when fun and folly reign!

*Courtesy Board of Recreation Commissioners, East Orange, N. J.*

**H**ow are you planning to celebrate Hallowe'en on your playgrounds this year?

Celebrations on almost fifty playgrounds were the achievement last year of the Los Angeles Department of Playground and Recreation, and parades, bonfires, games, stunts, races, story-telling and costumed dances combined to give enjoyment to the thousands of people who attended.

## THE PROGRAM

A few of the programs presented on the Los Angeles playgrounds may be suggestive.

### A General Party

8:00 P. M.	
Lighting fire	Races for various age groups
Band music	Apple bobbing
Short program	Fortune telling
Tumbling and stunts	Story telling
Nut scramble	

### A Little Children's Party

3:00-5:00 P. M.	Bonfire
	Treasure Hunt
	Hallowe'en frolic on hillside
	Stunts

### Introducing "Eats"

7:30 to 10:30 P. M.	
	Bonfire, wienie and potato roast
	Races: sack race, three-legged, etc.
	Costume parade: prizes
	Peanut scramble
	Apple bobbing
	Stunts

Witches, pumpkins, apples, black cats, weird costumes and strange noises! What a delightful medley of foolishness is Hallowe'en!

### A Varied Program

4:00 P. M.	Children's play
4:35 P. M.	Story telling
5:15 P. M.	Games for small children
7:30 P. M.	Bonfire
	Games around bonfire
	Costume parade—prizes for the funniest, weirdest and most symbolic
	Stilt races—15 yard backward race; 25 yard forward race; sack race
7:45 P. M.	Marshmallow toast Wienie roast

### For Old and Young

7:00 P. M.	Bonfire
7:30 P. M.	Costume parade for small children
8:00 P. M.	Costume parade for older persons
8:30 P. M.	Prizes
9:00 P. M.	Wiener bake Potato roast
9:30 P. M.	Games for young people
10:00 P. M.	Games for older people

### The Mystery Man Visits the Playground

7:00 P. M.	Bonfire lighted
(a)	Introduction of Bobby Burr in plain clothes. Bobby Burr will then retire and don a disguise. He will return at 7:30 and mingle in the crowd at which time the costumed children will attempt to discover him.
(b)	Parade of all costumed children
(c)	Awarding of prizes to winners in parade
7:30 P. M.	The hunt for Bobby Burr, the Mystery Man
7:45 P. M.	Announcement of winner of Bobby Burr hunt
7:50 P. M.	Games, stunts
9:00 P. M.	Marshmallow and sweet potato roast

### A Three Day Celebration

Wednesday—3:30 P. M. Hallowe'en play—children  
 Wednesday—8:00 P. M. Hallowe'en dance and party  
 Friday—3:15 P. M. Hallowe'en party—children  
 Saturday—7:00-7:15 P. M. Bonfire lighting  
 7:45 P. M. Community singing  
 8:15 P. M. Costume parade and awarding prizes  
     Games  
 9:00 P. M. Wienie and potato bake  
 10:30 P. M. Finale

### Where Three Centers Combine

2:30 P. M. "Fire Spirits" (a true Hallowe'en story of long ago)  
 3:00 P. M. Dances, games, stunts  
 3:30 P. M. Party for all children under ten years of age  
 5:30-6:30 P. M. Evening dinner hour

#### SECTION I

7:00-7:30 P. M. Ross Snyder Boys' band concert  
 7:30-8:30 P. M. Stunts—boxing; three-legged race; stilt races; backward race; tug-o-war; crab race; serpentine; sack race; peanut scramble  
 8:00-9:00 P. M. For mothers with children under ten years of age; open house; pink lemonade and cookies; peanut race; apple eating contest; the ghost house; games  
 8:30-9:00 P. M. Costume contests: Contest for the best costume for juniors and the funniest costumes for seniors; selected by judges and popular applause. Ribbons awarded.

#### SECTION II

9:00-11:00 P. M. Program of entertainment  
 9:00-12:00 P. M. Free social dancing on tennis courts

#### SECTION III

11:00-12:00 P. M. Bonfire, wiener bake, marshmallows, or "what have you?"

### When Ghosts Walk

- 7:00 P. M.
- 1. Pie eating contest
- Costume parade
- Apple bobbing
- Ghastly ghost game
- 2. Bonfire and wiener bake
- 3. Descent into King Tut's tomb
- 4. The graveyard at midnight
- 5. Fortunes of the Foolish in Bluebeard's Den
- 6. Pumpkin dance and other numbers

Among the plays given on the various playgrounds were *Shadows on the*

*Moon*, *Witch of Midnight*, *The Wistful Witch*, *The Giggle Witch*, *The Lucky Bunny*, *Hallowe'en at the Back of the World*, *Fire Spirits*, *Hallowe'en Goblins*, *The Goblin Stone*, *Two Little Witchlings*, *Feathertop*, and *Five Ghosts*.

Increasingly cities are providing Hallowe'en programs which will keep children off the streets and happily occupied on an evening which in the past was so often given over to disorder and the damaging of property. Recreation departments are creating a new Hallowe'en tradition.

### A FEW GAMES FOR CHILDREN

**Ghosts and Witches.** The players are divided into two teams of ghosts in lines on opposite sides of the room. Each team has its witch who, blindfolded, sits in the center of the room listening for wandering ghosts. The object of the game is to see which team is lightest on its feet. The players take turns walking around the two seated witches and if perchance a witch thinks she hears a ghost she calls out: "I hear a ghost." If she is correct the player loses a point for his side. If a witch detects one of her own team, it scores two points for the opposite side. If a witch's guess is incorrect, her team loses a point. Needless to say the keynote of the game is "caution."

**Black Cat and Bat.** All the children, except two, join hands and form a circle. The one who has been chosen to be the bat stands within the circle. The other, chosen to be the black cat, stands on the outside. The black cat then tries to catch the bat. The play group favors the bat and lets him "fly" freely in and out of the circle. They work against the black cat and try to keep him from catching the bat by raising and lowering their arms. They must, however, not bend their knees or try to keep the black cat out by the use of their feet. When the black cat catches the bat, both join the circles at any points they choose. The child to the right of each becomes the bat and the black cat for the next game. If the play group is large it adds to the fun to have two cats.

**Apple Race.** The contestants for this race carry four apples in a row on each outstretched arm to a given point at the opposite side of the room. They may possibly arrive with one in each hand but the others are apt to be found anywhere along the way. The person who arrives at the goal with the eight apples intact certainly deserves a prize!

**Witches and Cats.** The one selected to be the witch kneels on the floor with her back to the other children and pretends to stir the broth.

The players arrange their positions every now and then so that the witch cannot tell their locations. The witch says: "Number five, tell me who you are." The player fifth in line then answers with his voice disguised as much as possible: "I am a big black cat, Meow-ow." If the witch can

guess to whom the voice belongs she says: "Cat, Helen Jones, come stir my broth." If her guess is correct, Helen Jones changes places with the witch. If the guess is wrong, the witch must keep on stirring and guessing until she correctly recognizes a voice.

**Goblin Wants a Corner.** Each player but one has a goal, either a corner or other definite spot. The one who has no goal is the goblin and goes up to one of the others and says: "Goblin wants a corner!" The one addressed replies: "Goblin, ask thy next door neighbor." During this time the others change goals and the goblin tries to get a "corner" or place used as a goal. If the goblin has tried several times without getting a "corner," he may go to the center of the group and call "All change." All must then change places, thus giving the goblin a better chance to get a "corner." After all the players have changed goals the child left without a "corner" becomes the goblin for the next round.

**Have You Seen My Jack-o'-Lantern?** All the children, except the one who has lost his jack-o'-lantern, form a circle. The one not in the circle goes around on the outside, taps one of the group on the back and says: "Have you seen my jack-o'-lantern?" The child addressed says: "How is your jack-o'-lantern dressed?" The child then describes the dress of someone in the circle. For instance, she might say: "My jack-o'-lantern has on a blue suit, green necktie and brown shoes." As soon as anyone senses that he is being described he runs around on the outside of the ring, the one who lost his jack-o'-lantern going in hot pursuit. If the chaser catches the jack-o'-lantern before he gets round the ring and back into his original place the jack-o'-lantern must be "it" for the next game. If the chaser fails to catch his jack-o'-lantern he must take another turn.

**The Black Cat and Her Kittens.** The child is who is chosen to be the black cat leaves the room and all the rest of the children take their places around the table. They place their arms on the table and lay their heads on their arms in such a way that they cannot see what is going on in the room. The one in charge of the game then touches several of the children on their heads and they become the black cat's kittens. The black

cat is recalled and her kittens meow for their mother. She must try to locate her kittens by their meows. The first kitten to be found by the mother black cat must take her place for the next round. After the first kitten is located the rest must keep on meowing until their mother finds them.

**Hitting the Apple.** A large paper apple made from red paper is pinned to a cloth and tacked to the wall. Standing thirty feet away, each person is given a turn at throwing a tiny rubber ball at the apple. Each person who hits the apple receives a score of five. After five turns around the person having the highest score wins.

#### FOR OLDER PLAYERS

Don't forget grown-ups in planning for Hallowe'en. At community buildings, field houses, school centers and meeting places of all kinds there should be parties with decorations galore to add the proper atmosphere.

#### Decorations

These decorations, the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of Reading, Pennsylvania, points out in a bulletin, information from which we quote here, make things interesting from the very beginning. Autumn leaves, corn shocks, cut-outs in the form of witches, owls, bats and caldrons all help to create the spirit of Hallowe'en.

At the entrance there are two jolly scarecrows welcoming the arriving guests. Inside the door is a ghost who acts as director and points the way to go. Windows and doors are converted into transparencies by covering them with yellow tissue and pasting cut-outs in various forms. Inside the party room there may be corn shocks scattered about with a scarecrow here and there, autumn leaves strung on string or wire and hung from opposite corners of the room, and autumn branches used for ornamentation. Jack-o'-lanterns and candles in candle holders made from carrots and oranges provide lights, and an illuminated skeleton forms the major part of the decoration. Use as many mirrors, large and small, as possible to reflect and multiply the lights and shadows. Burning bowls of alcohol to which salt has been added give a ghostly light. If there is a fireplace colored fire powder should be thrown on the flame occasionally.

"Do you like to play with witches?  
Have you ever waltzed with ghosts?  
They say they're entertaining  
And they're very merry hosts.  
Don't be afraid to come around,  
We promise lots of good fun—  
There's bound to be a jolly time  
With every ghost a live one!"

Another type of decoration is that in which crepe paper is used largely. Contrasting colors are orange and black. Shades are made from orange crepe paper for the electric lights. Fringed paper may be hung about the room and in the doorway, and a delicate spider web can be made by winding gold ribbon such as is used to wrap gifts at Christmas time around a constructed frame similar to the spokes of a wheel.

### The Guests Arrive

A good preliminary stunt is to take guests through a Tunnel of Terrors. Guests on entering are taken into a dark room and instructed by the ghost not to talk. When all have arrived the ghost announces that all are to follow him in single file. He leads them to a door whose knob has been electrified and informs them that the door must close upon each person who opens it. The ghost then ushers the guests through the dark Tunnel of Terrors, each person following the rope which has been woven from room to room. Suspended from the ceiling so that they brush the face of each guest are hung stuffed gloves, pieces of wet fur and similar "horrors." There is the rattling of chains, a moaning by someone far off, and the blinking of two eyes off in the corner made by using empty egg shells in which electric light bulbs are inserted and which are flashed on and off every now and then. The guests are brushed by a feather duster and pieces of ice manipulated by ghost helpers. The last event before being escorted back is the bidding of good-bye to the High Ghost of the Tunnel of Terrors who has on a wet glove frequently dipped in ice water. The guests then return to the party room for games and stunts.

### Matching Partners

1. Matching apples which have been cut in two parts
2. Matching paper pumpkins, witches or bats which have been separated
3. Write fortune rhymes of two lines, half as many as there are guests. Separate the first from the second line. Give the girls the first lines and boys the second lines, instructing them to find the person with the line which rhymes. Be sure only one of the rhymes has the same ending.
4. The witch does her best—or her worst—in choosing these partners. The men line up in one row and the girls in another, while the

witch, blindfolded, walks down the one line and then the other tapping one person on each side. These two step out and become partners.

### Games

Games suggested for large groups include *Skeleton Tag*, *Chatty Travel*, *Pumpkin Relay* and *Pumpkin Hustle*. For either large or small groups such games may be used as *Skeleton Names*, *Hallowe'en Pass*, *Corn Cob Swing*, *Flying Goblin* and *Bottle Fortunes*. Games appropriate for small groups include *Shady Skeleton*, *Witch Nine Pins*, *Giving Pumpkin Face a Nose*, *Apple Dart* and *Black Magic*.

**Skeleton Tag.** Players form a large circle and extend left hands toward the center. An extra player with a group of keys, runs counter-clockwise around the inside of the circle with his right hand extended. As he runs he takes one of the players by the left hand who in turn takes another player; the line continues to grow until the leader drops the keys, when all scramble back to their places. The last one to find his place starts the next line.

**Chatty Travel.** Players form in a double circle. When the music starts the circles march in opposite directions. When it stops both the circles face each other and players "get acquainted" with those opposite. The next time the music stops the outer circle tells those inside: "What I would do if I met a ghost in the cemetery at night." At the next meeting the inside circle tells the outside circle: "What I think would be worse than two skeletons serenading on a tin roof," etc.

**Pumpkin Relay.** Players line up in files each facing a pumpkin which is twenty feet away. On the word "go" the first player in each file runs up and around the pumpkin, comes back, touches the second person and so on until the last person in each file has completed his run. The team finishing first wins.

**Pumpkin Hustle.** Players form in files, an equal number in each. The first one in each file carries a good sized pumpkin. On "go" he turns to his left, goes down the aisle by the side of his line to the end, then around and up to the right side. He gives it to the next one and stands in his place. Each one in turn makes the trip but must go around the entire line from wherever he started. The file finishing first wins.

# Forest Fires and the Recreationist

By MARIE F. HEISLEY

Forest Service  
United States Department of Agriculture

"**F**IRE! Fire! Fire!" How many times have we city dwellers heard that cry! With what excitement we follow the fire engines to an unknown destination! Oftener than not it is to find that it is fortunately a false alarm or a trickle of smoke. Sometimes we come to a larger fire when a house, factory, or other building is ablaze, or perhaps a lumber yard is going up in smoke. And there have been times when the engines led to a conflagration which covered many blocks and caused untold damage before the last spark was finally extinguished.

The man in the forest, however, has no such loud alarm to tell him of the presence of fire. Usually he first detects it by the "smell of smoke" or by a telltale wisp curling up from the trees. For his own safety he must try to locate the fire and if he cannot put it out himself, must summon help to do so. But even under the best conditions it is not always possible to get men and equipment to a forest fire before it gains considerable headway. It may burn over acres of ground and require a large force of men to control it. Sometimes a forest fire develops into a devastating force that consumes everything in its path, destroying not only valuable timber but farms and towns and even human life. Such a fire is a calamity of major importance, ranking with flood, pestilence, famine and earthquake. Forest fire has therefore aptly been termed the "Fifth Horseman" that rides with the other Four of Biblical lore over a careless world.

Fire has been the scourge of forests probably ever since their beginnings. We have numerous evidences of its existence even in prehistoric

**When you go into the forest to seek recreation, be sure you do not add to the forest fire's devastating toll.**

times in the charcoal, found in geological deposits. When wood is once reduced to charcoal its structure may be preserved indefinitely. Thus from the presence of charcoal in deposits from the



Courtesy Seattle Department of Parks

various geologic ages we assume that forests existed and from time to time were destroyed by fire long before the advent of man.

Fire-scarred big trees in California show that great fires occurred in that State in the years 245, 1441, 1580, and 1797. Evidence also points to forest fires in Colorado in 1676, 1707, 1722, 1753 and 1781. The West, however, had no "corner" on these early forest fires, for history records a fire in New Hampshire and Maine in 1761 and one in the region south of Mount Katahdin in 1785. One of the greatest recorded forest fires of this country also occurred in Maine in 1825. It is commonly referred to as the Miramichi fire. This fire burned at the same time as a fire of the same name in New Brunswick, but was a distinct fire, separated by many miles from its Canadian contemporary. The Maine fire burned more than 832,000 acres, or the equivalent to thirty-eight townships, and according to one authority, destroyed enough standing timber to build thirty-eight

**Campers were responsible for one twelfth of the forest fires occurring last year.**

cities of from 40,000 to 50,000 inhabitants each.

Since then other great fires have occurred in this country from time to time. Some of the worst of these happened in the last three decades of the 19th century in the Lake States, when vast forests of white pine covered practically all of that region. Perhaps the greatest forest fire since the creation of the National Forests in 1905 was the Great Idaho Fire in August, 1910. Like the Miramichi fire the Great Idaho Fire occurred in a season of little or no rainfall. The National Forests of the panhandle of Idaho and western Montana were tinder dry and numerous small fires were burning in the mountains. A pall of smoke hung low over the whole region. Forest officers were praying for a change of wind that would bring rain to help them put out these fires when out of the Northwest came a trickle of breeze which in a short time lifted the smoke blanket, and promised to revive the whole parched countryside. This life-giving breeze, however, was "a delusion and a snare." It rapidly developed into a wind of hurricane violence which picked up the widely scattered fires and turned them loose upon the whole region. Impelled by the 70-mile gale, fires that were but a few minutes before miles away, were howling and roaring down upon hamlets and camps, upon the lone cabins of settlers, streaming up green mountain sides and leaping across canyons. Within a few hours this tidal wave of fire spread over 2,000 square miles of forest. When after days of smoldering, it finally burned out, it left in its wake billions of feet of splendid timber strewn in charred and shrivelling heaps and blackened stumps. This fire caused an estimated loss of over \$650,000,000 and the deaths of eighty-five or more persons. This figure, however, does not include the loss in recreation values sustained by the devastated region.

#### When Fire Takes Its Toll

When fire sweeps through the forest, recreational values are bound to suffer. No other agency can so effectively wreck the beauty of the forest or create a scene of such desolation. A fire-swept forest, where the burned skeletons of trees cast their ghostly shadows, holds no profit for the recreationalist, be he hiker, camper, fisherman or hunter. For in addition to destroying forest vegetation, fire kills forest animals and birds out-



right. Even ground fires which apparently do little damage to the trees are a real menace to recreational values. By scarring and weakening the trees they increase the danger of attack from insects and fungi which invariably mar forest beauty. Ground fires, too, destroy the eggs and young of ground-nesting birds and kill small game animals of various kinds. Thus repeated fires, directly and indirectly through their influence on the food supply, are responsible for the decrease in the number of game animals, birds, and other forms of wild life in our forests. It has been said that by destroying large quantities of caribou food in Maine, the Great Miramichi fire was responsible for driving those animals into Canada.

Fish, also, are among the victims of forest fires. Destruction of the forests on watersheds tends to decrease the low and steady water flow of streams which is essential to fish life. Fish are killed by the complete drying up of streams and also by the increased temperature of the water in seasons when the runoff in streams is small. By raising the temperature of the waters of streams, forest fires are directly responsible for the death of thousands of fish. In the Great Idaho Fire it was found that the water in some of the forest streams became so hot that the fish were literally cooked. Forest fires have also killed large numbers of fish by changing the chemical composition of the water. Brook trout especially are killed when a fall of ashes makes the water too alkaline.

According to United States Forest Service estimates, 186,894 forest fires occurred in the United States during the calendar year 1931. They burned over 51 million acres. Slightly over one-third of these fires occurred on Federal, State, and private lands protected by some system of organized fire control. The remainder occurred on unprotected areas. Man's carelessness was responsible for about nine-tenths of the fires on protected areas. Careless smokers caused almost one-fourth of them, and ranked second only to incendiaries as causes of forest fires. Campers rank sixth, being responsible for a little over one-twelfth of our forest fires. It is thus a fact that persons who came to the forests for recreation were responsible for a substantial percentage of

the fires. If this is so on protected areas, pleasure seekers must have been responsible for even a larger percentage of fires on unprotected forest lands where there are no regulations about care with fire.

### Taking Precautions

When recreationists are careless with fire in the woods or forest, they are "killing the goose that lays the golden egg." Neither they themselves, nor any others will seek pleasure among charred snags and burned stumps. It therefore behooves those whose work involves recreation in the forests to keep in mind the ever-present danger of fire, and to impress upon recreation groups the necessity for constant care with inflammable materials in the woods.

If you should come upon a woods fire, try yourself to extinguish it. In case you cannot do this notify the nearest Forest Ranger or Warden

or get other help as soon as possible. A camp fire is always a pleasant adjunct to a woods party. It is also a potential source of danger. Should you wish to build one, the first step is to get a campfire permit from Ranger

or Warden if one is required in that area. Then clear away all inflammable material, such as leaves and duff, for a distance of several feet, and make your fire small, away from old logs, trees, etc. Always extinguish the fire with water before you leave it—and be sure it is dead out. Many a camp fire that appeared to be out has later run away and caused serious damage.

It is always necessary that care be used in smoking, even when merely driving through a wooded stretch of country. Matches and cigar and cigarette butts must be completely out before they are thrown away.

On the National Forests, where Uncle Sam provides excellent opportunities for outdoor recreation, the careful recreationist is always welcome. But Uncle Sam insists upon observance of the rules for the safety of the forests, and recreation leaders whose work takes them to the National Forests are urged to remember fire danger *always*, and to teach those with whom they work to be careful with fire in the woods.

# The Joys of the Road

**It's not the weather that counts in hiking! And each season has its own delight.**

THERE are 108 people in New Haven members of the Hiking Club fostered by the Recreation Commission who would rather walk ten miles on a Sunday morning than ride a hundred in an automobile according to the *New Haven Register*. They know the exhilaration that comes from swinging along a well-blazed trail, the happy feeling of well-being that follows a scramble up a steep hillside, the comradeship of a crackling camp fire and the excitement of a tramp along moon-lighted paths.

Cold weather does not daunt them. Give them a frosty, mid-winter morning and you will not find them hugging the warmth of their firesides. Early morning finds them well started on their way to the starting point of the hike. At noon a stop is made for a luncheon cooked over a brisk wood fire, and by the middle of the afternoon, if this is not an all day affair, they are back in New Haven.

Rain does not discourage them. While others spend a restless Sunday scolding the weather man for spoiling their week-end plans, the members of the Hiking Club are on the trail, unless the weather is impossible. Give them a gentle Spring rain shower, and clad in slickers and rain apparel, they will get as much enjoyment out of the hike as they would on a bright summer's day.

And as for snow—they love it! Under a blanket of snow even the most familiar landscapes become new territory to explore and nothing is perhaps more lovely than the countryside after a snow storm. Then too, snow brings opportunity for winter sports. Skis and snow shoes are taken along. Hot coffee is served at luncheon time.



*Courtesy U. S. Forest Service.*

**Only the hiker can know the satisfaction which comes when the summit has finally been reached.**

In summer interest in the hikes does not wane, for it is indeed a relief to leave the hot city streets and stroll through blooming fields and country lanes. Every season of the year has its own appeal and summer is picnic time for every lover of nature.

The New Haven Hiking Club belongs to New Haven. Its ranks are open to everyone. Organized about a year ago under the auspices of the Board of Recreation, its fame is city-wide. And as it is a civic enterprise it is international and cosmopolitan in character.

What makes the Club especially interesting is the number of professions represented. Yale professors, clerks, stenographers, school teachers, librarians, office workers and men employed in the shops of New Haven industries stride side by side or in Indian file over hill and dale together. The interchange of ideas and tastes makes membership in the Club educational as well as recreational.

The walks the members take are carefully planned far in advance of the dates on which they are to occur. Records are kept of each hike. Thus far this year they have walked exactly 281 miles. A special committee takes charge of planning each trip and all possible material on hiking places is gathered in advance. Advice is sought and received from the State Forester, the Connecticut Forest and Park Association, whose offices are in New Haven, the Appalachian Mountain Club and individuals who have hiked in the vicinity. Usually several members of the Club go over the trail before the date set for the hike. A second committee is in charge of the food, while another arranges the various games and treasure hunts which are introduced in the schedule to give variety to the program.

The hikes are interesting from another point of view. Many of the members are interested in birds; others, in flowers; still others, in geology. These members are constantly on the lookout for interesting additions to these fields of knowledge and they impart newly found information to other members of the Club.

Usually cars are engaged to take the Club members to the starting point as many times the trail opens off the line of trolley cars. In this way much time is saved and the members are able to devote the majority of the morning to the following of the actual trail.

An overnight camp is maintained by the Board of Recreation. Every now and then a hike leads to the camp where supper is served and games and sports are enjoyed. Up to the present time the Club has not stayed over night at the camp, but plans are being made for such an outing this spring.

On some occasions the Club holds its hike in the afternoon, and every once

in a while a moonlight hike is enjoyed. When the members start just before dusk, hike until it is dark, cook supper and then hike again.

Every taste in hiking—for there are tastes in this sport as in every other—is catered to. Those who like long distance hiking enjoy the trips that take them far afield. Others that enjoy shorter trails find them in the trails that lead them out of New Haven, and those who find particular enjoyment in the moonlight walks can organize a small group at any time or attend one of the larger hikes of this nature.

According to members of the Board of Recreation in charge of this particular activity, the Club is one of the most successful of the many enterprises sponsored by the Board. Since the Club was first formed its membership has increased steadily. It is now thoroughly organized with officers in charge.

**NOTE:** Writing further of the organization for the hikes, Miss Rose L. Dworski, Supervisor, Bureau of Women and Girls, Recreation Commission, states: "A group of eight morning hikes was selected and an attractive mimeographed folder with details as to time and meeting place and length of hike was sent to stores and offices. Bright posters were distributed in store windows and the newspapers printed the schedules.

"Before the eighth hike we knew who our leaders were. These were called together to help plan the winter series of sixteen hikes which were varied, some all day and some morning and some afternoon. By the time the spring schedule was ready for mimeographing a definite set of officers and committees had been organized and the program arranged for overnight trips, moonlight hikes and cave exploring excursions, and combined canoe and walking trips with alternate hikes for those not interested in swimming.

"The Connecticut Forest and Park Association has made the Club responsible for keeping the Quinnipiac Trail, which runs eighteen miles north of the city, brushed and cleared."

**Who Are These Minne-hikers?**

Twelve years ago last

*"Now the joys of the road are chiefly these:  
A crimson touch on the hard-wood trees;  
A vagrant's morning, wide and blue,  
In early Fall, when the wind walks, too;  
A shadowy highway, cool and brown,  
Alluring up and enticing down  
From rippled water to dappled swamp,  
The outward eye, the quiet will,  
From purple glory to scarlet pomp;  
And the strident heart from hill to hill."*

*By Bliss Carman*



Courtesy Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners.

A "hobo" hike is one of the events of the season for the Minnehikers—that jovial band of trail followers!

winter a group of people including Park Board officials and others interested in the out-of-doors, began a series of Saturday afternoon hikes, each one routed to include some part of the city park system. The original idea of those making up this group was to acquaint people of Minneapolis with the beauties which lay within the boundaries of the city. This idea was gradually extended to include territory around the Twin Cities, and from these small beginnings came the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club as it now is.

As the demand for more hikes grew, several Sunday hikes a month and also Wednesday night hikes were added to the schedule. At first all hikes were scheduled and led by someone from the Park Board which was, and still is, sponsoring the club, but gradually veteran hikers began to make suggestions and to scout hikes, and finally in 1924 a committee of hikers was appointed to take charge of the schedule.

In the early days, the hiking season practically ended with

the annual house party on Memorial Day, to begin again the first of September, although many outings and trips were gotten up by individual members during the summer. The demand for summer events became so great, however, that it was found necessary to issue just as full a schedule during the hot months as during the winter.

It is surprising to note that the attendance on hikes during the first year amounted to as many as sixty or seventy on one hike. It is more surprising that hikers often had to walk back to town, thus doubling their mileage, as no special buses were at their service.

During the twelve years that the club has been in existence, approximately 49,274 people have hiked 5,610 miles. And probably an equal number have attended the social functions of the club. Statistics for 1931 show there were 114 scheduled hikes during which 705 miles were traveled, the average length of hikes being 6.1 miles. The total at-

(Continued on page 357)

And another important date on the calendar of the Minnehikers is the barge trip up the St. Croix River.



Courtesy Minneapolis Board of Park Commissioners.

## With the Recreation Executives

It was at such delightful buildings as the Exposition Community Clubhouse that delegates to the Recreation Congress were entertained.



### At the meeting of Recreation executives held in connection with the International Recreation Congress, many serious problems were faced.

AT THE morning session of the meeting of the recreation executives, presided over by W. A. Kearns, Director of Physical Education and City Recreation, San Diego, California, W. F. Hansen, Superintendent of Recreation in Tacoma, Washington, gave a report of some of the things which are happening to recreation under present conditions and of the effects of the unemployment situation. The curtailment of budgets for recreation he designated as probably the most outstanding effect.

#### The Present Situation as to Budgets

A recent statement based upon the reports from more than fifty cities indicates that in two-thirds of the 1932 budgets are less than for 1931, and the average decrease is approximately one-third of the total budget last year. It is probably fair

to say that on the whole, municipal recreation expenditures for 1932 are not likely to be more than from two-thirds to three-fourths of what they were the previous year.

For the most part cuts are in line with similar reductions in budgets for other municipal services. In cities where the work has been of a very high order less drastic cuts have been made, even in the face of a crisis of municipal affairs. It has been found that where there is a special board responsible for the administration and determination of policies the work is on a more stable basis. It has also been shown that the presence of an active advisory council in some cities has been a great help in maintaining the recreation budget.

Recognition should be given the cities which are either maintaining work on the same budget as last year or, in a few instances, on larger ones. A survey of forty-two cities on the Pacific Coast and in the West indicates that in spite of necessary budget retrenchments recreation departments are actually expanding their services. Of the larger Eastern cities, New York has suffered practically no curtailment in recreation service this year, but is providing enlarged services as a result of the assignment of several hundred unemployed workers. In Newark, New Jersey, the Recreation Department has received an appropriation of \$295,000, only \$5,000 less than the previous year. Western cities have made available more than \$9,600,000 in capital recreation outlays in aid of unemployment.

#### INCREASED DEMANDS

Year Book reports for 1931 show an average increase in playground attendance of seventeen percent over 1929. At indoor centers the attendance has increased fifty percent, due in a large degree to the unemployment situation. In many cities recreation departments have been called upon to open special centers for the unemployed or to cooperate with other agencies in special service.

In spite of greatly increased general attendance there has been noted a marked decrease in attendance at facilities where charges are made. In many cities special privileges are accorded unemployed individuals and groups. In cities where it has been customary to charge a nominal fee for the use of facilities and where the income has not been sufficient to meet the operating cost, budget reductions have raised the question as to whether the facilities should be closed or the fee increased. In many instances rates have been raised; in others facilities are not being operated, or the operation has been cut to two or three days a week. There is apparently an increasing tendency to charge for the use of tennis courts, especially for night play. Charges for parking are also being increased or are being made for the first time. It is obvious that there is a great variety in the practice with reference to fees and charges resulting from the present prices.

**On July 23rd immediately preceding the International Recreation Congress, the recreation executives met to discuss mutual problems. This year, as was to be expected, they were chiefly concerned with problems of the present unemployment period, with budget curtailments, and with ways of keeping recreation services effective and of meeting increased demands in spite of reduced funds and decreased personnel.**

#### THE EFFECT ON RECREATION PROGRAMS

It may be said, in generalizing, that recreation authorities are attempting to maintain children's playgrounds first; and second, to afford a maximum of facilities and service for young people and adults, especially unemployed groups. There is a great variety in the program adaptations. In some cities the summer season is shortened; in others after-school playground programs have been eliminated. In some cases swimming pools have been closed, although no record is available of any municipal golf courses having ceased operation.

An effort is being made to provide a larger amount of service to the greatest number of people. Many cities are, therefore, featuring their picnic service this summer. It is not surprising that many special features which for the most part include small groups are being reduced or eliminated. Among these are drama, art and craft activities. Little new work is being started although reports indicate that a number of small communities are opening playgrounds under leadership this year for the first time. Among them two small towns, Puyallup and Sumner, Washington. In Tacoma a Civic Arts Association was organized last spring and has been very active.

A few cities are increasing their service. Denver has three additional playgrounds, Los Angeles thirteen, and San Diego two. Los Angeles is establishing a new beach camp. The playground budget in Santa Barbara has been increased from \$6,600 to \$8,200. The City Council at Whittier has just appropriated \$3,300, and a year-round recreation program is being established. Pomona is undertaking supervised recreation for the first time in several years.

#### EFFECT ON RECREATION PERSONNEL

On the whole recreation leaders have shown a splendid spirit of devotion in meeting the rather general salary reduction and in increasing their resourcefulness in making the recreation dollar bring the greatest returns. A study of the service in nearly 100 cities which spent less money in 1931 than in 1930 shows relatively little decrease in the number of employed leaders last year, though there was a decrease in salaries. In some cities a split

season has been adopted with summer workers recruited from the ranks of the unemployed. Few executives have left their positions although special staff workers have been dropped in a number of cities, and many playgrounds are being operated with reduced personnel. In a few cities the recreation staff has taken an enforced vacation and in a few others, as for example, Columbus, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan, leaders have been giving a considerable amount of time without pay. One of the most outstanding developments has been the increase in the number of volunteers. So far as is known there has been practically no change in the type of local recreation administration.

#### EFFECT ON IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

In 1930 and 1931 many cities improved and developed recreation areas largely through funds allotted for unemployment relief. In Tacoma, relief to unemployed was contingent upon work done in the playgrounds or parks. Reports show a decrease in such work at the present time, though it is still in effect in some cities. A number of public spirited citizens have made large gifts of land recently, realizing the value of such gifts at the present time both in making available additional recreation facilities and in aiding in the unemployment relief program. As an example of the way in which recreation departments are meeting this situation, Los Angeles may be quoted. Funds available for recreation purposes during the coming year will be approximately twenty percent less than they were in 1931-1932. In spite of this, many new facilities recently developed will be operated with no sacrifice in leadership standards. Savings have been effected by reducing maintenance costs twenty percent, abandoning two leased playgrounds and discontinuing the opening of ten small neighborhood playgrounds. A general salary reduction averaging ten percent has gone into effect, and there will be no expansion in the program of drama, music, and the arts unless volunteer leaders can be secured. In this way it is proving possible to carry on under the reduced budget without seriously curtailing any important part of the program.

In the discussion which followed, the problem of "tagged" revenues was raised. Many people, it was suggested, feel that revenues designated for one particular purpose are bad. Modern governmental trends, one executive stated, are away from tagged revenues, and if this attitude pre-

vails the death knell of many fine pieces of work will be sounded. A study of the subject is now being made, the results of which will be very significant. Recreation workers were urged to be on the alert and if necessary to see that lobbying is done in the state legislations. A number of the executives felt that it might be helpful if the group would go on record as favoring the millage tax. It is pointed out that the matter had been brought before the executives at previous Congresses and there had never been unanimous agreement regarding it though many executives were in favor of it. The experience of the National Recreation Association has shown that where cities have had the millage tax the work has stood up better.

#### What is Being Done to Prevent Reductions

Charlotte Stewart, Superintendent of Recreation, Salt Lake City, in opening the discussion of this subject stated that there is no panacea for meeting budget reductions. Every community is different and varying factors will affect budgets. Recreation workers must be "sporting" enough to have their work tested, even to test their work themselves from the standpoint of quality of programs, financial status of the community, the extent to which the public has been sold, whether or not recreation is considered less essential than other community services and whether public officials are intelligently considering recreation and other public tax services. Each community must analyze its problem from these various angles.

Of major importance is the insuring of a day by day recreation service to the public, and to do this publicity must be marshalled and the strength of local organizations put back of the recreation movement as it has been done in a number of cities. Miss Stewart stressed the importance of having citizens' committees at neighborhood play centers, and using P. T. A.'s, service organizations and churches. Philadelphia is finding it effective to publish in the newspapers letters from playground children. The radio is very helpful just at this time in getting over to the citizens the values they are securing from tax supported services.

Protests from parents through civic clubs is an effective means for maintaining sentiment for an adequate budget. Helpful material for publicity is to be found in Warden Lawes' "Twenty Thousand Years in Sing Sing," in The Wicker-sham Report, and in the publicity material issued

by the National Recreation Association. Delinquencies and crime may be graphically stressed through the use of spot maps.

Parks and recreation facilities represent a tremendous investment in public property which require funds to make it serviceable to the people. The next generation must not be sacrificed, and the desire to live must be kept alive. Through all community agencies must come the insistence that people shall *live* as well as be kept alive, fed, and given shelter.

Volunteers and more of the people trained in our colleges must be utilized as leaders. The possibilities in this field of volunteer leadership open up a new conception in the recreation program. In Salt Lake City, when it was decided to close some centers because of the reduced budget, parents secured volunteers to serve under a paid worker. In one section parents paid one dollar a week apiece to keep a trained leader on the playground.

A number of executives stressed the importance of having civic leaders educated to appreciate the value of recreation so that they will be ready to help in times of emergency. In one city a local attorney, in a five minute talk at a critical period when the budget was being considered, was able to save the situation.

The Federal income tax problem was briefly discussed. Because playgrounds and parks are not considered essential governmental functions recreation groups are being asked to pay the tax. San Francisco reported that the income tax statements for the local staffs had been filed but not paid for the past year as the city attorney advised against it. The issue is now being thrashed out. In the District of Columbia the operation of playgrounds is considered a governmental function, a

decision which should influence the question elsewhere. It was suggested that recreation workers keep in touch with the work of a special committee appointed recently by the California City Managers Association to determine what functions are governmental.

Representatives of eight cities reported a five-hour day for laborers and caretakers. Los An-



One of the many beautiful playgrounds which Los Angeles provides for the children of the city.

geles was the only city reporting a five-day week for the playground staff. It was the feeling of the meeting that recreation workers should be willing to share cuts along with other departments when this is the only means of meeting the municipal problem.

#### **When Cuts Are Inevitable What Should Go?**

Raymond L. Quigley, Superintendent of Recreation in Fresno, California, in introducing this subject urged that recreation workers be prepared to defend their program when requests

come from tax authorities for facts regarding their departments. He suggested the following possible reductions in cases of emergencies:

1. The elimination of capital expenditures except as gifts are available or made work for unemployed provided through relief funds.
2. Reduction in the cost of lighting by the regulation of equipment such as the installation of quarter meters on tennis courts, and by the turning off of lights when courts are not in use. The same principle should be applied to the use of water and gas.
3. Use of the stagger plan or split work in arranging of workers' schedules. In case of salary cuts the highest salaried officials should receive the largest cuts.
4. Elimination of experimental work except as it will result in more efficient work in absolutely essential parts of the program.
5. Shortening or adjustment of schedule of hours before playgrounds or centers are eliminated. The work should be carefully studied to determine what adjustments can be made without detriment; in some instances the number of sessions can be reduced. If centers must be eliminated consideration should be given such factors as distance of the grounds from children's homes, the general attendance needs of the unemployed, and the probable effects from the standpoint of increase in delinquency if provision for recreation is not made. Playgrounds in all probability should be the last to go, though the program for adults is highly important particularly in view of the unemployment situation.

A few facilities may be made at least partially self-supporting. These include golf, tennis, (and the use of a 25¢ meter was recommended as an economy device), and mountain camps. As a general principle those activities should be retained which meet the needs of the largest number. There was a difference of opinion regarding the relative importance of the various age groups—children, young people, and adults—in their recreational needs. One executive felt the teen-age group—from twelve

to eighteen—may be more important than the others because younger children have the advantages of home environment, while the teen-age group is in an adventurous mood which needs guidance. Another worker felt the program for adults was more important because their conduct reacts on younger people and children. The majority of the executives, however, felt that in general the grouping in order of importance should be children, young people, and adults.

There was a strong insistence that high standards of leadership be maintained in the emergency. In making staff reductions enough trained workers should be retained to direct the work of volunteers, who must be given some training. Volunteers can be effectively used without putting them in the most important positions. It was pointed out that the city fathers must be impressed with the imperative need for having trained leaders and they must not be permitted to feel that recreation can be handled entirely by volunteers.

Board members must be kept informed and given responsibility for educating the public and maintaining budget and program service. The effectiveness of advisory recreation councils was stressed.

#### Keeping the Service Effective When Budgets Are Reduced

Josephine Randall, Superintendent of Recreation in San Francisco, who presided over the afternoon session, pointed out the necessity for meeting the challenge of the relief agencies which at first felt all funds raised should go for relief, but which now are realizing their need for the help of recreation to relieve them of problems which only leisure time activities can meet. "Don't concentrate too much on cutting budgets," she urged, "but more on educating public officials so they won't cut."

Dorothy Enderis, Assistant Superintendent in charge of Extension Department, Milwaukee Public Schools, told how a number of cities,

deprived of public funds, had secured other sources of income. In one city a newspaper raised money; in Birmingham the business men secured funds, while in Elmira the Lions Club raised \$6,000 to keep the work going. Unemployment relief labor has

*It will be of interest to readers of Recreation to know that the proceedings of the International Recreation Congress held in Los Angeles July 23-29, will not appear in the magazine, as have reports of previous congresses, but will be published in a separate volume, which may be secured from the Association at \$1.50 per copy.*

helped in many cities. Grand Rapids, as one instance, bought a piece of land considered an eye sore, took down a number of buildings for the use of unemployed and erected an attractive bath house with salvaged brick.

Local organizations of all kinds have come to the rescue. In one city the local newspaper took over the tournaments; in another a department store conducted a buggy parade; in many, various organizations have sponsored baseball leagues. Some organizations have made the securing of contributions of play equipment their responsibility. Milwaukee's center for unemployed was equipped entirely by contribution as far as materials were concerned. The mere collection of decks of cards for the centers has awakened many people to the value of recreation.

"Don't overdo volunteer help," Miss Enderis warned, "There are situations which demand the most highly skilled leadership and there should be a paid worker in charge wherever volunteers are introduced." Adult activities can carry on in many cases with a little help from the recreation department. In Irvington, New Jersey, with the budget reduced no funds were available for the orchestra. The director offered to give his services, the members volunteered to pay dues, and the orchestra carried on.

Stimulate other local organizations to provide as many activities as possible and help them to make their contribution most effective by training volunteers. Milwaukee is to have a social recreation institute limited to four representatives from each local organization. People who attend will pledge themselves to conduct games. One of the great benefits which should come out of this period is an increase in home play. Milwaukee will have institutes this winter in which table games and other games at home will be taught.

Much of the discussion which followed Miss



In Griffith Park, one of the great play centers of Los Angeles, is a large outdoor swimming pool.

Enderis' suggestions centered about the made work program which many cities are conducting. San Francisco reported that with \$57,000 available for materials and construction through the use of unemployed labor will do about \$300,000 worth of work. The question was raised by one executive whether the recreation movement in its capital expenditures, is acting wisely in tying in with the unemployment relief program. "Are we making the economic situation worse by borrowing money and making improvements for which future generations will have to pay?"

In answer to this it was pointed out that the bond issues which are being made are not the responsibility of recreation departments, but are emergency measures which are keeping people from starving. Recreation departments are putting men to work, many of them high grade technical men who are giving real service and are happy to give it, and are thereby preserving their morale at the same time they are developing recreation facilities which need improvement. There is no danger that too many parks and playgrounds are being created—there have never been enough. It is in line with modern thinking in the engineering profession that in periods of depression construction programs should be undertaken within

legal limits for which future generations will pay. The only possible danger would lie in the increase of facilities which will be damaging if they are not properly supervised and administered. Recreation service would be greatly impaired if local recreation departments should install elaborate plants poorly maintained.

#### The Special Contribution of Recreation in a Period of Unemployment

While the recreation movement in a number of localities is serving unemployed men segregated in shelters, the main issue, V. K. Brown of Chicago pointed out, is the contribution to the community at large which is affected by unemployment, and the expansion and adaptation of the program.

When faced in Chicago with the necessity for making reduced funds meet the situation, all workers took a twenty percent salary cut. Then came cuts in departmental budgets. A study was made of the use of buildings and it was found that the unit cost per individual was greater in the early morning and late at night, so the buildings were closed at 10:00 p. m. unless the users were willing to pay the cost. A lecture group or fraternal order were charged \$10.00 for extra hours.

To meet the needs of the older boys who were inclined to use the recreation building more or less as a loafing place, the plan was followed of setting up an informal social game program instead of reserving the hall for specific purposes. There has been a tremendous increase in attendance at such activities as quilting clubs and horse shoe pitching and a greater spirit of neighborliness is creeping into the program.

Instead of offering medals or ribbons as awards for activities, the South Park Commission is now making no awards. Without incentive participation is increasing and more spectators are coming to the parks. Coming out of it all is a growing sympathy for the men out of work and more neighborliness. At the South Park centers an effort is being made to phrase rulings and prohibitions a way which will not irritate.

The depression is bringing about a better human understanding.

Speaking of the provision of recreation for older men in shelters, Mr. Brown designated them as "important places for the stability of civilization." A program should be provided which has the utmost of activity in it. Open forums which are seized upon by agitators must be handled carefully.

The Public Athletic League in Baltimore, it was reported in the discussion, provides recreation in the Salvation Army Shelters. It has been difficult to secure the participation of men in activities. Chicago reported engaging a sociologist to make a study of the recreation provided at the Chicago shelters. He criticized the low percentage of participation on the part of the men and the failure to provide vehicles through which more men could get into action.

#### Effect of Unemployment on Future Recreation Policies

Summing up the day's discussion, Sibyl Baker, Director of Municipal Playgrounds, Washington, D. C., said:

"During the day I have been deeply interested in listening as the executives of our American Departments of Recreation have unfolded the history of our recreation movement in the United States. We have looked back to those days when we first began the good fight for recreation. In those earlier years we sought recreational opportunities for the under-privileged in our crowded cities. We urged the value of recreation in checking juvenile delinquency. We pointed out the necessity of playgrounds that our children might be safe. Many of us remember the ardent arguments of those early days—the right of the poor to play opportunities; the need of proper activities to check wayward youth; the sudden disappearance in our great cities of the street play which had served for many decades for our children, and which the automobile had suddenly checked. Then we passed through a period in which the slogan was the right of every child to a place to play, and for a decade the children were

#### Is Public Recreation a Necessity?

First, one must find out what is meant by the word necessity. I think life could go on without recreation, of course. But I'm not so sure that living could... When we speak of necessities now I don't think we often refer to the sorts of things that merely let life vegetate in us, things necessary for a bare subsistence. Civilization has done that for us—it has accustomed us to thinking of other things as necessities, things of the spirit as well as the body, things that mean to us living, not merely life. If these are what is meant by necessities, then it seems to me there is some ground for considering recreation a necessity.—V. K. Brown, *Parks and Recreation*, February, 1932.

almost our only preoccupation. But as we supplied our children with splendid facilities in school and on playground, little by little we found that the adult wanted his share of the use of those facilities, and we passed into that period where we began to place the school at the disposal of the adult when the school day was done, and when our parks began to develop magnificent playing fields and courts to which the grown-ups of the community flocked.

"Today we have learned that all of the people are seeking what we have to offer. Parents demand our services. While communities are organizing to back up our efforts. Even the unemployed are organizing that they may have their share in our programs. Leading business men appear before our budget committees and argue for the funds we need. Lawyers and leaders come volunteering their services to carry out our programs. We cannot leave today's conference without realizing that in more than this quarter of a century of service which it has given us, the National Recreation Association has been aiding us recreation workers in a tremendous task. I am reminded of the words of King Edgar, in that beautiful poem which serves as libretto to the opera "The King's Henchmen," when looking back over the labors of his life he sees himself:

Hewing and heaving  
Setting stone upon stone,  
Building England!

"So we workers in recreation, each one busy upon his own task, working through these years, suddenly find that we have builded an edifice; that we face a new era when we carry the responsibility of the morale, of the spirit of the community. In our hands is the health of society. I am standing here to look upon what we have builded. We are asking ourselves, 'what shall be our labors for the future?' We have today been recapitulating what America has done in recreation before we go forward next week into the International Recreation Congress to hear what other nations have done. We realize that the times demand of us that we should evaluate our programs, our budget, our personnel. We must come to a clearer understanding of what we are after and estimate definitely the effects of all that we are doing. The useless, the unnecessary, the trivial, we must slough off. Our funds and our service must go farther than ever before, and our visions must go farther.

"Certain things have been taught us by the unemployed, those with added leisure, and those

with nothing but leisure; those who yesterday were well-to-do, and busy, who today have idle time on their hands. We find that they desire to be participants, not spectators; that they are seeking activity, not entertainment; that they ask self-improvement to overcome futility.

"I am about to return to my home city to plead for my budget, and I feel a very real gratitude to those who have today given us their experiences. We must each one of us determine very clearly the value of each aspect of our program, of each area which we administer, of each worker whom we employ. It behooves us to ask of our financing body no more in money than we can put at really valuable work in the community.

"I hope that the National Recreation Association will assist the various communities in determining that recreation is a governmental function, along with schools and hospitals. I believe that we are ready to meet the delegates from other nations who come to this International Congress with a story to tell of recreation in America of which we all should be justly proud."

"The use of leisure time without question will be in the next few years a great peril and a great opportunity in our country. The rapid introduction of technological change is bound to release workers from industry and to reduce daily hours of labor, shorten the work week and extend vacations. Surely our American sense of fitness will lead to the shortening of hours rather than throwing upon the public masses of unemployed human beings. Provision for adult education, stimulation of physical recreation, appreciation of art in the form of dramatics and of graphic and plastic arts, of rhythmic expression, education in self-expression, the opening up of crafts and of gardening—all these opportunities must be given to the mass of people or the devil will take his toll.

"Probably great changes will come in all types of social work, and every department of social welfare will be challenged, but no one part of the program that has been carried on will have greater opportunity or greater strain upon its resources and upon its creative and imaginative qualities than the department of recreation with responsibility for taking care of increased and increasing leisure time. Certainly we must look to the National Recreation Association and all of the other national and local associations to meet these demands."—Dr. Susan Kingsbury, Director, Department of Social Economy, Bryn Mawr College.

# World at Play



There's real novelty, Lancaster finds, in playing checkers in a wading pool

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## Doubling Up On Facilities

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Pennsylvania, Recreation and Playground Association. The solution was found last summer in the use of certain facilities for more than one activity. For example, the wading pool, emptied at four o'clock, was used from five until dark as a paddle tennis court at one end, and at the other a rubber quoit court and large checker board 15 feet square. Checker boards are stenciled on benches in such a way that two men astride the bench may have a checker board between them. In this way it has been possible to meet the needs of the older men who frequent the park.

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## Back Yard Gardens

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"MAKE the back yard beautiful—grow vegetables for your family," was the slogan adopted in the contest conducted last summer in Cambridge by the Recreation Division of the Park Department, the League of Women Voters and the Unemployment Committee. All school children of the city were eligible. Registration blanks were supplied and seeds furnished free if the young gardener could not afford to pay for them. Three hundred and eighty-eight children registered; 197 gardens were in the running at the close of the contest when the Massachusetts Horticultural Society made awards.

WHAT to do when play areas are small was the problem faced by the Lancaster,

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## Mothers to the Rescue!

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WHEN the Salt Lake City recreation officials announced that several playgrounds must remain closed for the summer because of lack of funds, the mothers of Whittier School held a conference. Under the leadership of the Whittier Parent-Teacher Association they obtained playground equipment by private donations and arranged with the Board of Education for its installation. Thirty-eight mothers volunteered to direct activities with the advice of the supervisor of city recreation.

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## Twenty-five Years of Service

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IT was on June 28, 1907, that the first Recreation Commission of East Orange, New Jersey, then called Playground Commission, was organized. The first law permitting expenditures for public recreation had been passed by the 1907 legislature, and East Orange was one of the first cities in New Jersey to take advantage of this law. Lincoln E. Rowley was appointed Secretary and General Custodian in 1907, and today he is still serving in the capacity. During the twenty-five years of Mr. Rowley's service nearly \$1,000,000 has been invested for beautiful properties. Maintenance and operating costs are now about \$50,000 a year. From the beginning the Recreation Commission has sought to make all the grounds as park-like as possible without

interfering with their proper use. Three of the five major properties secured were formerly dumps. By improving these areas adjacent property has been enhanced in value so that in one instance at least it is possible to show that these increases are already paying the annual maintenance and operating cost. The Commission celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary by the publication of a beautifully illustrated report.

**A Contest in Negro Spirituals.**—The City Department of Recreation of Lynchburg, Virginia, has held its fourth annual Quartet and Soloist Contest for Negroes. Judging for the quartets was done on the basis of interpretation, effectiveness, stage presence and harmony, and ten was the maximum number of credits which could be given on one point. For the solo work judging was done on interpretation, effectiveness, stage presence, tonal quality, pronunciation and enunciation.

**For the Anglers of Rochester.**—The City of Rochester, New York, has secured the cooperation of the Bureau of Fisheries and other agencies in its effort to provide fishing grounds for children and adults in its public parks. This utilization of the thirty-five lakes in the park system will not only provide amusement and recreation but will furnish a sufficiently large number of fish to stock many of the lakes and streams of Monroe County. Large and small mouthed black bass and other game species will be propagated. Some of the lakes will be set aside for the use of children who wish to fish with whatever equipment they have available. Other lakes will be open to the regulated taking of fish by adults, and still other lakes will be utilized exclusively for propagation.

### HELP WANTED

SALESMEN—who call on schools and colleges, willing to sell an additional line consisting of academic caps, gowns, hoods, gymnasium outfits, hockey outfits, school uniforms. State territory and qualifications. Excellent opportunity to connect with old established firm. Box 208, National Recreation Association, New York City.

## ... Playgrounds can't afford dust this year . . . .



### Both economy and health urge this protection!

**PROTECTION** of children against the dirt and dangers of dust! **Protection** of the playing surfaces against disintegration which is the cause of dust! Both kinds of protection are assured with the use of Solvay Calcium Chloride on gravel and earth surfaces.

Playgrounds everywhere find Solvay treatment the ideal way to end the dust nuisance. Clean and white, it does not track or stain. It is easy to apply and economical to use. And in addition to keeping down dust, it actually kills harmful germs that live and breed in dust.

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**Park Police and the Recreation Program.**—One of the most important features in the organization of a year round recreation system, Mr. James S. Stevens of Springfield, Massachusetts, has pointed out, is an adequate system of guarding its properties and of guiding the vast number of people who visit various areas such as parks. Experience shows that this can be effectively accomplished, where circumstances permit, through a well organized and directed force of permanent park police.

**Leadership.**—In Plainfield, New Jersey, it has formerly been the custom of the Superintendent of Recreation, Roy O. Schlenter, to secure volunteers from the Kiwanis and Rotary Clubs to help in certain activities. This year he is putting up to the various clubs the idea of taking over the sponsorship for certain activities which involve financing and volunteer leadership. For example, he has asked the Kiwanis Club to take full charge of boys' baseball; the Rotary Club has been asked to take responsibility for another activity. A much more enthusiastic interest on the part of these clubs has been the result, and there has been an increase in the number of volunteers.

Springfield, with a population of about 150,000 people, has maintained a regular force of park police for over twenty-five years. This unit, which is a regular division of the Park Department organizations, includes a lieutenant, sergeant and twelve patrolmen. Three patrolmen are assigned to motor cycles, and it is estimated that at least 60 per cent of the entire park and recreation acreage is policed by these men, especially during open seasons of the year. The park policemen are trained "to warn, check, guide, inform and instruct park and recreation visitors and not to arrest and punish except for some wilful and flagrant misdemeanor." Policemen who are trained in this principle soon come to realize that the great mass of people visit recreation areas for enjoyment and not to create trouble.

**Church Playground Not Tax Exempt.**—"Land owned by the church and used as a playground is not exempt from taxation, according to the attorney general."—Note from October, 1931, issue of *The Municipality* published by the League of Wisconsin Municipalities.

**A Playground for Preschool Children.**—A new playground, less than an acre in area, has been added to the playground system of Macon, Georgia, which has been laid out in such a manner that it can be used for the preschool age child and for children's dramatics.

**A Home Recreation Course.**—A number of outstanding women's organizations in Cleveland, Ohio, together with the Adult Education Association, are sponsoring a Home Recreation Course extending from January 29th to March 2nd. The City Division of Recreation, in association with Cleveland College, is conducting a series of demonstrations in connection with the course, the six sessions of which are held in morning periods. These demonstrations, which are given largely as parties, include material and suggestions for home activity other than formal or informal parties, such as mixers with or without music, crafts, active, quiet and table games, stunts, simple dramatics, storytelling, singing games, games, music story plays, hobbies and magic. Hiking, backyard play, home play equipment, sand modeling, social recreation, and Dad and His Boy are among the subjects considered.

**Louisville's Spring Fete.**—A spring fete concluded the winter program in dancing classes conducted by the Division of Recreation of Louisville, Kentucky. About 350 children of all ages, from three to eighteen, were enrolled in these classes which met in a shelter house at Shawnee Park which hitherto had little use except as a dressing room for baseball players. Part I of the program consisted of a minut and dances of the months—New Year Dance (January); Flirting with the Valentine (February); Irish Lassies (March); Water Sprites (April); Easter Bunnies (May); Wooden Soldiers and China Dolls (June); Uncle Sam Drill (July); Girls at Play (August); School Days (September); Dance of the Pumpkins (October); Greeting of the Pilgrims (November); Jingle Bells (December). In Part II came a number of special dances which had been taught during the winter.

**Community Nights in Austin.**—There is a wide variety offered in weekly community night programs held on the playgrounds of Austin, Texas. Among the activities are pageants, square dances, stunt programs, watermelon feeds, basket suppers, roller skating meets and one act plays.

**Los Angeles County to Have Four New Parks.**—The Los Angeles, California, County Board of Supervisors, through four county departments — Surveyors, Regional Planning, Forestry and Recreation—is launching a plan for a public park program of enduring beauty to the county and of benefit to the unemployed. The projects include Alondra Park of 310 acres, Pacoima Park, 190 acres in extent, Ladera Park of 14 acres, which will have an outdoor theatre, and City Terrace consisting of 14 acres. The program will not require revenue from any additional taxation but is financed by a part of available funds for unemployment. The parks are planned with a view to their most effective scenic value, but no recreational opportunities are overlooked.

**Juvenile Delinquency and Boys' Clubs.**—Early in 1930 a boys' club was organized in Chester, Pennsylvania. A superintendent was secured and in May the club was opened in three rooms on the second floor of a building. In November larger quarters became necessary, and several rooms were added. There are now several hundred boys on the membership list. "During the year 1929," states the 1930 annual report of the Probation Department, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, "thirty-six cases of delinquency were reported from the section in which the boys' club is located, but since giving the boys various activities to occupy their spare time but one case has been brought to the attention of the court."

**A Home Play Game Course.**—The course in Home Games for Parents was the joint project of the Park and Playground Association of St. Louis and the Department of Zoology of St. Louis University. One hundred and thirty parents attended the courses held on the evenings of April 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th. So popular did the meetings prove that another series of courses will be given in the fall. The course was instituted primarily to interest parents in the coming Backyard Playground Contest which last year was so productive for those out of employment that it was felt important to pave the way for a more extensive contest this year.

**Music in York.**—Citizens of York, Pennsylvania, enjoyed a well arranged Music Week program fostered by the Department of Recreation. All concerts were free to the public.

## CHECK your PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT

Parks and Playgrounds have been patronized and utilized more this year than probably ever before. Why? Because people have taken their families to parks rather than expensive resorts and shows. This has meant heavy wear and tear on playground equipment. Most park boards and schools have appreciated this situation and have provided adequate facilities for the children's play.

Now is the time to check your equipment. Some of it may need repair—some replacement—or additional devices may be needed.

Permit our engineering department to assist you in your plans. Send for our catalog and see the new dependable, durable, and safe playground equipment we offer.

**American Playground Device Co.  
ANDERSON, INDIANA**

The program was as follows: May 1st, a band concert by the city band; May 2nd, a program of Negro music by the Pennsylvania Hotel quartet and Smallwood school children. On May 3rd, a piano recital by twenty-four members of the Matinee Musical Club playing at eight pianos; on May 4th, an organ recital at the First Presbyterian Church; on May 5th, a program by Juvenile, McDowell and Pi-Mu Music Club; May 6th, a program by the Senior High School. On the same date, a pageant, "America's Welcome," gave an opportunity for the presentation of folk songs and dances by children from other countries. May 7th was devoted to an international music program. The program closed on May 8th with a concert given by the Spring Garden Band.

**A New Civic Arts Association.**—Tacoma, Washington, has a Civic Arts Association sponsored by the Recreation Department and the Metropolitan Park Department. It is divided into five groups—dramatics, the dance, music, arts and crafts, and oratory and debate. On May 31st the association presented its first public offering, a dance festival.

*The most up-to-date and authoritative information on the subject*

## THE CHILD AND PLAY

By

JAMES EDWARD ROGERS

DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL PHYSICAL EDUCATION  
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## In Commemoration Of Armistice Day

FOR GROUPS planning to celebrate Armistice Day the Community Drama Service of the National Recreation Association offers a short peace pageant with production notes.

Schools and community groups of all kinds will welcome these suggestions.

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**The Greater Pennsylvania Council.**—The Pennsylvania legislature has passed a bill creating a Greater Pennsylvania Council for the promotion of the economic, social, industrial, agricultural, educational, civic and recreational welfare of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and its citizens. The Council consists of 150 members appointed by the Governor who serve without compensation. It is the responsibility of the Council to make such studies as may be desirable in collaboration with existing organizations. The sum of \$225,000 has been appropriated for the expenses involved. Dr. Ralph D. Hetzel, President of State College, is Chairman of the Council; Dr. Charles Reitell is Director.

**Community Centers in Lansing.**—The Department of Public Recreation in Lansing, Michigan, is operating ten school centers as contrasted with two in existence three years ago. Attractive folders entitled "After Working Hours, Where Play?" have been issued. These describe the facilities and activities available and extend a hearty invitation to "play with us." The folders were given wide distribution in the industries of the city where they were eagerly received.

**Publicity for Wilmette's Playgrounds.**—Each week the *Wilmette Life* of Wilmette, Illinois, allot to the Playground and Recreation Board a full page or more for any publicity the Board wishes to bring before the public. In addition to the recreation page, another full page is given over each week to the *Junior Press*, a paper prepared by public school children under the sponsorship of the Board.

**A Trip Around the World with Stamps.**—The Stamp Club conducted by the Department of Playground and Recreation of Los Angeles, California, is carrying on a new activity known as "A Trip Around the World with Stamps." Each week certain countries are the subject of the club's activities, and the member having the most stamps of the country under discussion has an opportunity to answer questions concerning the country. If he answers all the questions asked he receives five points. If he fails to know the correct answer, the member next in line is given an opportunity. At the end of the trip the individual with the highest score will receive a package of stamps.

**Clubs at Police Stations.** — "We erect the gallows at the end of the lane instead of a sign-board at the start," said Warden Lawes of Sing Sing in advocating the establishment of boys' and girls' clubs at police stations or public schools as part of a crime prevention program. In his opinion the present lawlessness could be materially lessened if such clubs were provided for boys and girls who because of poverty are barred from organizations where dues are charged.

## A Center That Knows No Depression

(Continued from page 321)

shows. Such vehicles as "Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves," "Master Skylark," and "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp" are favorites with the youngsters.

A great financial saving is effected by producing the same play at each field house. In this way the same costumes and stage props are used at each performance, with minor changes to fit local stage conditions. The result is that finer costumes are provided at less cost. Through diligent saving of these, the Department now has 400 costumes stored away ready for instant use or alteration for any field house dramatic venture. Costume materials, stage props and curtain fabrics are purchased in large lots from retiring stock companies and theatres and then converted into use. The low initial expense, coupled with the fact that the articles are used many times, reduces the cost of staging these shows to a rock bottom level without reducing the quality of the stage facilities. The Department maintains a warehouse—an abandoned fire station—where all this material is stored. These accessories are also used by the senior dramatic clubs which produce one-act plays in the field houses through the winter season.

An orchestra is maintained at each center to accompany plays, dance dramas and similar events and also to give public concerts in the building. Green Lake's orchestra includes twenty-two members, all of whom donate their services in exchange for the use of the building as their headquarters.

### Athletics Popular

Many children and adults take part in the field house basketball teams. Eight boys' teams and four men's teams represent each

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## Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles  
of Interest to the Recreation Worker

- The Totem Board*, August 1932.  
The Making of Hooked Rugs, by Elisabeth E. Bowen.  
Log Rolling, by Bernard S. Mason.
- Parks and Recreation*, August 1932.  
Park Subjects to Be Dominant at Washington Conference.  
The New Playfield at Neenah, Wis.  
Our National Parks—Keynotes of the New Day! by Margaret March-Mount.  
A Hundred Million Dollars Worth of Parks Donated. Notes on Track and Field Facilities, by V. K. Brown. Recreation Service in Los Angeles County Recreation Area, by Virgil Dahl.
- Childhood Education*, May 1932.  
Let's Play It, by Margaret Garrett Bice.
- The Grade Teacher*, September 1932.  
Music Education and the Harmonica, by C. I. Valentine.
- Popular Home Craft*, September-October 1932.  
Jig Saw Puzzles—How to Make Them, by T. K. Webster.  
Forging and Working with Wrought Iron, by J. W. Bollinger.
- The Journal of Physical Education*, September 1932.  
The Fundamental Techniques of Handball, by Melvin A. Clevett.  
Testing Progress in Volley Ball, by Melvin A. Clevett and Robert A. Laveaga.  
The Objective of the Olympic Games, by Count Baillet-Latour.
- Camp Life*, June-July 1932.  
Circus Guilds, by Clarence Arthur Perry.
- Hygeia*, August 1932.  
Swimmers' Safety Pledge.  
Olympic Village.
- The Red Cross Courier*, September 1932.  
The Old Swimming Hole and the New, by Natalie Reichart.
- The Survey Graphic*, September 1932.  
This Club is Okay.
- Child Welfare*, September 1932.  
A Taste for Music through Musical Toys, by Rose Ella Cunningham.
- PAMPHLETS**
- Report of Melvin Jones, Secretary-Treasurer of Lions International.
- Tampa Board of Public Recreation Report, 1931-32.
- Boy Cathedral Builders Guide.
- Educational Opportunities of Greater Boston.  
Compiled by the Prospect Union Educational Exchange.
- National Playing Fields Association Annual Report, 1931-32.  
National Playing Fields Association, 71 Eccleston Square, London, S.W. 1.
- State Legislation Relating to Kindergartens in Effect 1931.  
By Mary Dabney Davis and Ward W. Keesecker, Pamphlet No. 30, Office of Education, Washington, D. C., \$0.05.
- Some Timely Recreation Problems and Opportunities in the New York Region.  
Information Bulletin No. 8—Regional Plan Association, Inc., 400 Madison Avenue, New York City.
- The Art Workshop Program*, 1932-1933.  
14 East 37th Street, New York City.

center in the annual Inter-Field House League, with a total of 1,200 or more participating. Silver trophy cups are awarded to the league winning teams to rest in their trophy case for a year or to become the permanent possession of a field house if won three times. The winner of the men's Class "A" League represents the field houses in the annual inter-league playoff for the amateur championship of the city. Women and girls also participate in basketball, but competition is not stressed and they do not play in organized leagues. All other indoor sports are run on the same basis as basketball, with inter-field house competition for boys and men, and intra-mural play for girls and women.

The aim of the Park Board is to make the field house a family recreation center as well as a civic gathering place. Activities are designed to provide every member of a family with his or her favorite sport or hobby, while all civic groups are urged to make full use of the club rooms and auditorium. Each field house is the hub of civic, social and recreational activities of the community it serves.

## Memories That Will Live

(Continued from page 329)

immense Fleishhacker swimming pool. The interest and inspiration aroused by all of these can perhaps be imagined by the reader. Most memorable of all was the barbecue in old Spanish style that was given to us by Mrs. Sigmund Stern, Chairman of the San Francisco Recreation Commission, in the Sigmund Stern Recreation Grove. This was the kind of event that we dream about after reading of the lavish feasts and love of color of the Spanish. The Grove itself is exceedingly beautiful with its many eucalyptus trees rising beneficially from the hills surrounding the pleasant valley in which we dined. After the luncheon we were held in the delightful Spanish atmosphere, or steeped more fully in it, by a kind of pageant, all too brief, in which there was the most graceful though simple dancing imaginable. Young people from the playgrounds of the city were the dancers in lovely Spanish costumes. There was also an Indian dance given by a real Indian father and his two little sons accompanied by the drum-beats and singing of the father, and there was very good singing of Spanish and Italian songs by the playground boys and girls. A chorus of Italian boys of high school age and

older was especially fine and hearty. After seeing and hearing these dancers and singers it was strange, in being introduced to some of them later, to hear Irish, German, Russian and Italian names as well as Spanish and what are called American ones—it was strange and also happily revealing of the universality of a folk expression.

The climax of our afternoon tour came in our visit to the Balboa School with Superintendent Gwinn as our guide. The beauty of this school's buildings and interiors and the excellence of its gymnasiums, music room and other provisions for leisure-time living were an inspiring revelation to us.

Most of us stayed in San Francisco through the following night—a short night it was after a fascinating tour of Chinatown—and by the next evening we were all in Los Angeles.

Now that we have arrived at the beginning of this article, we will end it; but not without glowing again over the generosity and excellence of the hospitality that we received at the hands of our California hosts.

When looking back over the week of the Congress and the golden days that preceded it one wonders how many such weeks could be regarded as an ample life-time. Not many; five or six of them, even less than that, would contain more vital and full living than many a man or woman has in three-score years and ten. But it is perhaps a wiser and finer thought that Mr. Arvold had as we sat together listening to a great orchestra in that beautiful and acoustically marvelous Hollywood Bowl. "What a boon life is," he said. "It's too bad we can't live two or three hundred years."

### The Joys of the Roads

(Continued from page 341)

tendance was 6,339, the average attendance being 56. Twenty-nine other events were scheduled during the year, including dances, camping trips, and house parties. The largest attendance on one hike was 175, and the longest scheduled hike was 28 miles.

In an attractively illustrated pamphlet called "Footprints of 1931" the Minneapolis Municipal Hiking Club, sponsored by the Recreation Department of the Board of Park Commissioners, tells of the club's activities for the year, the by-laws, members, and something of the club's history.



On August 3, 1932 Ellen Browning Scripps died at the age of ninety-five. Since 1917 Miss Scripps had been a member of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association and for many years was actively interested in both the local and the national recreation movement. On the recent visit of Dr. and Mrs. Jacks they were her guests in La Jolla. She herself gave a very beautiful community center and playground in La Jolla, California. She also converted the farm at Rushville, Illinois, where she lived in her early days, into the Scripps Park and erected a community house on the site of her former farm home. She took deep personal interest in the Rushville center following very carefully and in detail all the developments which took place. She provided a lodge and caretaker for the Torrey Pines Park and devised her land holdings of several hundred acres to the city of San Diego as an addition to that park. Miss Scripps in her own hand would write to the office of the National Association telling of her interest in what was being done. Perhaps because of her own experience as a school teacher Miss Scripps was always deeply interested in education. She founded the Bishops School for Girls at La Jolla and Scripps College for Women at Claremont, California. The Scripps Institution of Oceanography was built jointly by Ellen Scripps and E. W. Scripps, her brother, and is operated by the University of California. Miss Scripps also gave the Scripps Metabolic Clinic in La Jolla. She was the chief contributor to the Natural History Society and its new fireproof museum building and to the Zoological Gardens of San Diego.

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## Our Decision Is

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MANY inquiries come in for interpretation and advice on problems concerning rules of games and athletics. These are often of general interest and value. RECREATION plans to conduct a column of such inquiries and answers. Send in your problems of interpretation of rules; protests on decisions; inquiries on organization of leagues and tournaments. Those having general interest will be used in this column. All inquiries will receive a direct reply if a self-addressed stamped envelope is enclosed.

1. Q. Two men are out and the bases are loaded. The batter hits a bullet-like ball down third base line striking the base-runner on the foot while he is standing squarely on top of the third sack. The ball bounds out in fair territory between second and third bases. Four runs come in while the opposite side rushed in to argue that the man standing on third base is out. I might add here that our local rules provide that a base-runner cannot leave his base until the ball has been hit. Please rule on this as to whether the man is safe or out, and, if safe, is the ball declared in play and do the runs count.

A. *Base-runner is out, ball is dead, batter is credited with a single and the runners on first and second each advance one base, being forced ahead by the batter's going to first.*

2. Q. Runners on first and third. Pitcher delivers ball to batter, and ball is returned by catcher to pitcher standing outside his box. Runner on first meanwhile starts to steal second (after ball passes plate), and the pitcher throws to second, failing to get runner stealing. The runner on third scored. Does the run count?

A. Yes.

3. Q. With a base runner on second base, the batter got a hit to short center field. The base runner on second ran to third on the hit. On the play the pitcher ran over to third to either back up the third baseman or complete the play himself. The base runner slid into third base safely. The third baseman who received the throw from center field tossed the ball back to the pitcher as the pitcher was walking back to the mound (pitcher was not on mound) and the runner on third ran home to score. The umpire sent the runner back to third base stating that the

## Congress Proceedings

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play had been completed. The batting side contended that the play was not completed, until the pitcher was on the mound with the ball. Should the runner have been allowed to score?

A. *The play was completed when the runner slid into third base and the pitcher started to walk back to the mound. The intention of the rule is that the runner on third shall not steal home and this is just what this particular runner is doing.*

4. Q. A man running from second to third base was tagged by the third baseman with the back of his hand that held the ball. Was the runner out?

A. *The runner is out.*

5. Q. Can a base-runner advance if the ball is thrown back to the pitcher by the catcher, if the pitcher makes an attempt to catch it, but it hits his hand and then bounds to another player or to the outfielder's hands?

A. *Yes, the base-runner can advance, except that he cannot score from third on such a throwback.*

6. Q. Must a base-runner, in running to first, run three-foot line on last half as in baseball?

A. *The runner may run out of the base line as far as he chooses as long as he does not do so in order to avoid being tagged. So long as a play is not being made on him, you need not worry if he takes the longer circle way to first base. If a play is being made on him, at any part of the base line, he must stay within the base line limits.*

## New Books on Recreation

### Immigrant Gifts to American Life

By Allen H. Eaton. Russell Sage Foundation, New York, \$3.00.

A book dedicated to beauty is this volume in which Mr. Eaton with rare artistry has recorded some experiments in appreciation of the contributions of our foreign born citizens to America's culture. He has described the exhibition of the Arts and Crafts of the Homelands at Buffalo, the Cleveland Exhibition of Handicrafts and a number of other notable exhibits and festivals in which the contribution of the foreign born to America has been featured. He has gone further and has interpreted for us these exhibits and events, telling us something of their significance and the results secured. He has also suggested ways of organizing and conducting an exhibition of arts and crafts and has pointed out resources for future exhibits. The spirit of the book is to be found in the concluding paragraph.

"It is not the thing which is done that makes a work of art, it is the manner of doing it. These exhibitions of things made by unschooled but sensitive people who knew not the rules of composition and color but who felt strongly the impulse to create beautiful objects and responded to that impulse, will not only help us to appreciate more fully the folk culture of the many homelands from which America is made up, but they will give us a vision of what we may reasonably hope to see in a renaissance of all the arts in our country. Perhaps the greatest thing, however, they will do is to help us to understand that art in its true sense, whether it be folk or fine, is the expression of joy in work."

### Out of Doors~A Guide to Nature

By Paul B. Mann and George T. Hastings. Henry Holt and Company, New York. \$2.00.

MOST biology books of the past have been the sit-and-learn variety. Here is a book that meets the urge of go-and-do. And in the end knowledge will not suffer. In fact, I strongly suspect that the book will radiate lasting enthusiasm to the young naturalists who are fortunate enough to have this guide to nature. I have known the authors in the field for a long time. They have had practical experience and have been eminently successful in the interpretation of the out of doors to young folks. I am glad that they have made their interpretations available to all young people, of whatever age, whether it be ten or a hundred. I have placed a copy of the book in the library of the log cabin where our Junior Nature Guides are pioneering. The abundant illustrations have already captured them. I have my ear to the ground to hear their comments. Youngsters are plain spoken. I expect to hear great compliments—the kind that only youngsters can flash.—WILLIAM GOULD VINAL, Director of the Nature Guide School, Western Reserve University.

### The Eloquent Baton

By Will Earhart. M. Witmark and Sons, New York. \$1.50.

HIS is a most valuable single book on the conducting of music. Like every other book on conducting it contains diagrams of the motions used for the different types of musical measure, but even in these diagrams it reveals subtleties that are very often lacking in conducting. These more subtle elements of musical leadership, which have to do not only with differences in volume, intensity and tempo, but also with meaningful phrasing, are very effectively dealt with in the text of the book. The many musical examples given are with two exceptions drawn from choral, orchestral and operatic works, so that the book is fully worth being read by any conductor who is at all capable of growth; but it can also be read with great profit by song leaders. After all, the subtleties referred to are not only intellectual; they have mainly to do with feeling, with insight into the music as music, and with pleasure in it. And these are precisely what are needed to make community singing, even of a simple song, as enjoyable as it can be.—AUGUSTUS D. ZANZIG.

### Handy II

Edited by Katherine and Lynn Rohrbough. Church Recreation Service, Delaware, Ohio. \$2.50.

ONE of the novel features of this, the latest edition of the widely known and used *Handy*, published since 1924, is a section on puzzles which will be welcomed by recreation workers for their quiet games room and for use in home play programs. In addition to puzzles, *Handy II* contains countless valuable suggestions for the social recreation program.

### Play Behavior and Choice of Play Materials of Pre-School Children

By Dorothy Van Alstyne, Ph.D. The University of Chicago Press, Chicago, Illinois. \$1.50.

DR. VAN ALSTYNE reports here the result of a study made for the Behavior Research Fund in cooperation with the Garden Apartments Nursery Schools and the Winnetka and Franklin Public School Nurseries. The study concentrates upon one age period—pre-school children from two to five years, and focuses on two aspects of play—the choice and use of play materials. It is based not on random reports of children's behavior but upon carefully recorded observations of their behavior within definite time units under the controlled conditions of the nursery school. The findings of the study have much of practical value for recreation workers, teachers and parents.

**Research and Education in the National Parks.**

By Harold C. Bryant and Wallace W. Atwood, Jr.,  
Government Printing Office, Washington.

The educational program in the national parks administered by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior and the history of the educational movement are outlined in this pamphlet which tells a fascinating story of the opportunities for education available in the national parks through guided trips, nature and historic trails, exhibits, wild-flower and wild-life displays, lectures, camp-fire talks, museums, libraries and classes. For the student of outdoor life this pamphlet has a wealth of information.

**101 Ways to Entertain Your Child.**

By Jane Parker. Noble and Noble, New York. \$2.00.

"A Book for Every Home with Children" might well be the title of this attractive volume. What mother has not faced the problem of keeping her child busy when he is recovering from an illness or is separated from his playmates? This book is the answer to her problem. It is written for children and they will enjoy reading it as well as acting upon the attractive suggestions for things to do which "Aunt Jeppy" has to offer.

**Vaulting.**

By Thomas McDowell. Oxford University Press, New York. \$75.

In this book Mr. McDowell has brought together a collection of horse vaults suitable for school children and leading up to the feats of the skilled gymnast, necessitating the minimum of apparatus. There is a brief discussion of each vault with many sketches and illustrations which may be understood at a glance. More than one hundred and fifty vaults are presented.

**The Blue Book of Sports.**

John Macbeth, 2062 West 69th Street, New York City.

The "Who's Who" in sport, the Blue Book contains photographs, biographies, editorials, stories and records of internationally prominent events, clubs, colleges, athletic teams and individuals.

**Growth and Development of the Child—Part IV  
Appraisement of the Child.**

The Century Company, New York. \$2.75.

This important study of the evaluation of the individual child is one part of the four volume report of the Committee on Growth and Development of the White House Conference on Child Health and Protection. It deals with the mental and physical status of the child, and in it are assembled standards for the measurement and appraisement of children's status and information which casts much light on such questions as the nature of genius, special gifts and mental inferiority.

**Fundamentals in Physical Education.**

By Ruth B. Glassow. Lea and Febiger, Philadelphia. \$1.75.

Here is a text book for college freshmen and high school girls which is designed to answer the problem confronting every instructor of physical education—what to teach and how to teach it. The book offers material for a required course in physical education for high school girls and freshmen and presents the knowledge of fundamentals and of certain skills which every student should possess. There are three sections—I: Speed, Strength and Direction in Movement; II: Timing and Rhythm in Movement, and III: Care and Use of the Body. Tables for scoring health are presented.

**The Regional Plan of the Philadelphia Tri-State District.**

Compiled by Sub-Committees of the Technical Advisory Committee and Staff of the Regional Planning Federation. Regional Planning Federation of the Philadelphia Tri-State District, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The Regional Planning Federation of the Philadelphia Tri-State District is to be congratulated upon the scope of this forward looking plan reported in a beautifully illustrated volume of almost six hundred pages. Much attention is given in the report to the development of recreational facilities and liberal standards are suggested for the amount of space to be set aside for play areas. The plan presented is the joint product of two hundred technicians who worked with planning consultants and with private citizens and governmental officials. It anticipates the requirements for a substantial increase in population over a fifty-year period. The area affected comprises 4,555 square miles and stretches roughly about forty miles from the central business section of Philadelphia into the States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. There is a wealth of information in this admirable volume.

**Occupational Interests and Personality Requirements of Women in Business and the Professions.**

Grace E. Manson. Bureau of Business Research, School of Business Administration, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. \$1.00.

The interests and opinions of nearly 14,000 business and professional women have been analyzed in this study whose objective has been to make a contribution of organized data from which general principles may be drawn regarding the preferences and opinions characteristic of business women as a whole and regarding the variations in attitude which exist between women in different occupations. It is a careful and thorough study containing much of interest.

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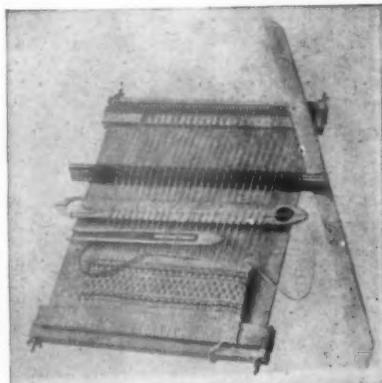
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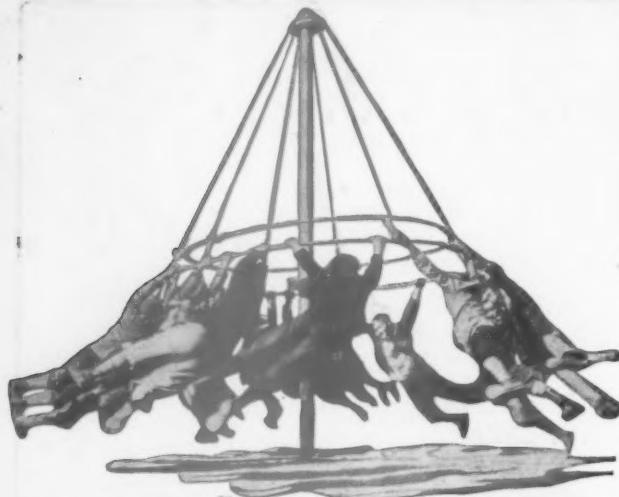
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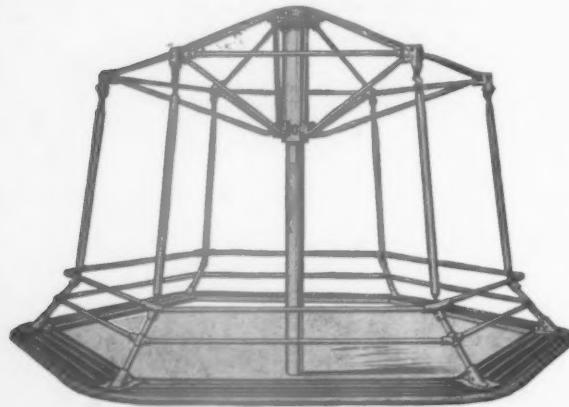


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